

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, 5th March, 2014

MEETING OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Councillor L. Patterson);
Councillors Austin, M. E. Campbell, Clarke,
Curran, Garrett, Hussey, Jones, Keenan,
Kingston, Magee, McCarthy, McKee,
and Thompson.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Director of Health and
Environmental Services;
Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;
Mr. S. Skimin, Head of Cleansing Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Head of Environmental Health;
Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen McCoubrey and Stoker and on behalf of Councillors Kelly, Kyle and McNamee.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Meeting of the Committee in May

The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had, given that the Local Government Elections were due to take place on 22nd May, agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled

The Committee agreed not to hold any meetings in May and agreed further that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources and, if necessary, the Chairman of the Health and Environmental Services Committees, to take any urgent

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decisions in accordance with the procedures which were routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

Finance Report – Quarter Three

The Committee considered a report which summarised the Department's financial performance as at the end of the third quarter of the financial year, that is, 31st December, 2013. The Director reported that, at the end of the third quarter, an underspend of £547,000 had been identified, which had been due largely to additional income received but also through staff vacancies and savings which had been realised in advertising and training. She added that it was forecast that the Department would be underspent by £483,000 at the year-end, which would again be due to the same factors.

The Director drew the Committee's attention to two performance indicators, the first of which related to procurement compliance. The Department, she reported, had achieved an 86.5% compliance rate in this regard, against a 90% target, which was above the corporate average and represented a 5% improvement on the previous financial year. In addition, the Department's compliance, when measured against the indicator which recorded the time taken for marking the receipt of goods, stood at 73%, which was 2% below target, but above the corporate average.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Departmental Plan for 2014-2015

The Committee considered the Departmental Plan for 2014/2015. The Director provided an overview of the Plan, which set out the key actions arising from the Corporate Plan and the Investment Programme, which the Department would be delivering over the course of the year, together with key Departmental actions, performance indicators and financial information. The Plan provided also a mechanism to enable the Committee and senior managers to performance manage the work of the Department. Additionally, the Plan would assist in decision-making and the allocation of resources in accordance with agreed objectives and activities. Regular updates on the Plan and its key projects would, as part of the corporate performance management framework, be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Committee approved the Departmental Plan for 2014/2015, a full copy of which was made available on the Council's Mod.gov website, the principal aspects are set out hereunder:

“2.2 The Plan sets out:

- **Financial information relating to the departmental estimates;**
- **The key departmental actions and projects (including those which will contribute to Local Government Reform and the Investment Programme); and**
- **Key departmental performance indicators and annual target**

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- 2.3** The plan provides a mechanism to enable the Committee and senior managers to project and performance manage the key work of the department in line with the Corporate Plan and Investment Programme. It should also assist managers and officers in the department to make decisions and allocate resources in line with the agreed objectives and activities.
- 2.4** Members should note that, whilst performance targets have been included for all performance indicators, a number are marked as iterative as it is not possible to set meaningful targets for some indicators until the current year's performance targets have been recorded. These targets are marked in the body of the report and will be reviewed after the year-end figures are available. Please note, however, that Committee will be notified of any changes to the targets.
- 2.5** Committee is asked to note that a number of the actions contained within the departmental plan are local government reform related. Whilst these actions will be undertaken by the Health and Environmental Services department, Members are asked to note that from June 2014, following the commencement of the Shadow Council period, these actions will form part of the Shadow Council's corporate plan.
- 2.6** The next twelve months will be challenging time for the department as it undertakes a significant programme of work in preparation for Local Government Reform, while at the same timing continuing to provide a wide range of public facing high quality services to the residents of the city. The department will be leading on a number of key strands of work including:
- taking a corporate lead on preparing the organisation for service convergence resulting from the extension of the Belfast boundary;
 - taking a lead role in preparing the council for the new duty of Community Planning to enable it to have begun the community planning process by April 2015; including the associated development of our approach to area working; and
 - the transfer of a number of functions from central government, including responsibility for off street car parking and a number of housing functions.
- 2.7** The Department will also be working to ensure that the large number of customer facing services that it is responsible for are delivered to the new areas coming into the expanded Belfast while at the same time ensuring that existing citizens and business continue to receive a high quality service"

Food Banks and Corporate Poverty Initiatives

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 At the February meeting of the Council, in accordance with a Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Mullan proposed:

‘This Council notes with concern the increase in the number of food banks and other food poverty initiatives established by church groups and charities in the city, often working in partnership with local community organisations. The Council has already committed extra financial support for advice services across the city and agrees to work, through the Council’s anti-poverty initiative, in partnership with relevant agencies, charities and faith-based groups to establish agreed structures for the provision of advice and support to those who find themselves in need of this urgent help.’

1.2 The Motion was seconded by Councillor Convery. In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Lord Mayor confirmed that the matter would be referred without discussion to the Health and Environmental Services Committee. This paper provides a background on the council’s and other agencies’ approaches to tackling food poverty and information on next steps following the Lord Mayor’s recent civic forum on tackling poverty together.

2 Key Issues

2.1 There is evidence that individuals and families are increasingly at risk of poverty across Northern Ireland. The latest projections calculated by the Institute of Fiscal Studies on behalf of OFMdFM suggest that over the next six years the percentage of children in relative poverty in the region will increase substantially from 23.6% to 29.7%. Poverty amongst working-age non-parents is also projected to continue its gradual upward trend of the last 30 years. (A likely explanation for the projected increase is the substantially reduced forecasts for employment growth in Northern Ireland).

The impact of poverty is well documented with households having to cope with a range of issues including home heating, finances and food poverty. The specific issue of food poverty has been a characteristic of the recent economic downturn, with the growth of food-banks the focus of particular media attention with a debate over their

significance. The latest report commissioned by DEFRA indicates that the increase in such banks has been demand-driven (i.e., there is no evidence that the increased supply of food-banks is generating its own demand). Critical factors driving people to such banks are on-going problems of low income, rising food (and other) costs and increasing indebtedness. Evidence suggests that most households tend to adopt a number of strategies (changing shopping and eating habits; cutting back on other outgoings; and turning to family and friends for help) before resorting to direct food aid.

Belfast food initiatives

- 2.3 Locally, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for developing a coordinated approach to addressing food poverty. The FSA have a series of medium-term outcomes (2016 to 2019) to ensure local support, resources and facilities are available to those experiencing food poverty.
- 2.4 Along with others, including the Public Health Agency, the FSA supports the Council for the Homeless and its 'FareShare' project in Belfast and its 'SafeFood' depot at Weaver's Court. FareShare sources quality, surplus food and drink from retailers and manufacturers and redistributes it to local charities feeding hungry and vulnerable people in the community.
- 2.5 Alongside FareShare, there are a number of other charitable and church-based projects tackling food poverty in Belfast. For example, 'Storehouse' links with other charities and agencies throughout Belfast to provide people with a package that a family or individual will need for three days. These packages are provided either in response to a one-off request or as continued support over 4-5 weeks.
- 2.6 The Trussell Trust partners with churches and communities to run over 400 food banks across the UK with three banks operating in the Greater Belfast area. Members will also no doubt be aware of the important work of the Society of St Vincent De Paul and Salvation Army who continue to offer families and individuals in need a range of critical locally-based support services.

Role of the Council

- 2.7 While not our direct responsibility, the council offers a range of support to those struggling with food poverty in the city. Currently, this includes our significant financial support for the

city's five advice consortia and our support for the citywide tribunal service; our Growing Communities strategy and its support for community gardens and allotments; our contribution to the 'Love Food Hate' Waste campaign which encourages households to make better use of food and reduce food bills; and our continuing contribution (alongside the PHA and Belfast Trust) to the Belfast Strategic Partnership which has a cross-cutting theme to tackle poverty.

2.8 The Council is also exploring opportunities with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) to consider how we can contribute to the Government's Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework for tackling poverty and inequality in Belfast.

2.9 The Health and Environmental Services Committee agreed in August, 2013, to become an active partner in the Belfast Food Network's bid for the city to be one of the six 'Sustainable Food Cities'. Having won the bid the Network are now establishing a programme of work from April 2014 to address obesity, food poverty and climate change with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing, creating new businesses and jobs and reducing our impact on the environment.

2.10 Lord Mayor's civic forum on tackling poverty

As Members will also be aware, the Lord Mayor hosted a civic forum on tackling poverty in January of this year. The conference focused on how the statutory and voluntary sectors can work better together to address issues of poverty. While acknowledging the significant work already taking place across the city, the forum which was attended by over 200 delegates sought to identify new ways of working. Delegates focused on specifically on issues of food, fuel and finance, and the opportunities for addressing the root causes of poverty by considering the role of business and jobs.

2.11 Conference delegates agreed that the council should work with our partners in the BSP to develop a shared plan of action for addressing symptoms and causes of poverty in the city. This action plan, which will include a number of proposals around addressing elements of food poverty, forms part of the work agreed by Development Committee to take forward the council's poverty agenda by creating greater coordination and integration of practical actions with our partners. Officers from Development Department and Health and Environmental Services are currently working to analyse feedback from the conference and to draft a plan for approval.

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3 Resource Implications

3.1 None at present.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage. However all new policy and strategy work detailed within the plan will be subject to equality screening in line with the Council's standard processes.

5 Recommendation

5.1 To note the contents of the report and that the issue of food poverty will be incorporated into the shared action plan to address symptoms and causes of food poverty in Belfast."

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Application for the Erection of a Dual-Language Street Sign

The Head of Building Control reported that the undernoted application to erect an additional street nameplate in a language other than English had been received by the Council:

<u>Street Name</u>	<u>Second Street Name</u>	<u>Language</u>
Hillhead Court	Cúirt an Mhullaigh	Irish

He explained that, in accordance with Council policy, a survey of Hillhead Court had been conducted which had determined that in excess of two-thirds of the residents living in the street had been in favour of the additional nameplate.

The Committee approved the erection of dual-language street sign at the aforementioned location.

Student Housing Strategy – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Strategic Study of the Holylands and wider university area was approved by Committee on 26th March, 2012 and adopted by Council on 2nd April. The recommendations of the study were two-fold:

- **To grow Belfast's reputation as a Learning City and destination of choice for students requires a city-wide**

strategy for student housing that will promote choice and fit-for-purpose accommodation; and

- To restore the Holylands by gradually reintroducing affordable, single household accommodation and improving the quality of the environment, whilst working towards developing an approach to managing the area.

- 1.2 An action plan to take forward these recommendations was presented within the final Strategic Study report. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress with these actions.
- 1.3 Updates on the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods team (which replaced wardens), the potential for a dedicated on street safety service in the Holylands and planning for St Patrick's Day period 2014 are also provided within this report.

2.0 Key Issues

Making Belfast a Destination of Choice for Students

- 2.1 As agreed by the Committee, the Council has been leading a Student Housing joint team (including DSD, SIB, DoE and NIHE) in developing a Framework for Student Housing in the city. A stakeholder engagement exercise was completed in Autumn 2013 and a final Framework document, to set the strategic context and agenda for student housing in the city, articulating the need for more purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) within the city, and providing suggested planning criteria to be applied to such developments, will be completed before the end of March 2014.
- 2.2 The Council continues to work with partners including SIB, DSD, DFP and DEL on developing a business case to assess the viability of PBSA, requirements and options for the public sector to support delivery. Further updates on this work will be presented when the business case is completed.

Restoring the Functional Integrity of the Holyland

- 2.3 The Council has been working with partners in the Holyland Interagency Group, including LANI, PACT and Students Union, to review the local PACT structure, and to implement a new neighbourhood management approach for the area. A revised PACT structure has been agreed and an initial meeting of the new PACT and neighbourhood management arrangements took place on 25th February 2014.

- 2.4** The Council has continued to develop a programme of environmental improvement works with partners (including DRD, Probation Board NI, University of Ulster Students Union, Queens University and Botanic Primary School) including repair/refurbishment of a wall and railings at Horsey Hill/Stranmillis Embankment, community artwork and some soft landscaping/planted areas. Resources for this work have been identified through prioritisation of existing budgets/work programmes and the works are due for completion before end of March 2014.
- 2.5** DSD was approached to consider the potential for implementing recommendations in relation to introducing a 'new homes from old places' initiative in the area, namely to identify a housing association that would acquire properties and make these available to single households. Disappointingly DSD has stated that this is no longer feasible at this current time due to lack of demand from potential tenants, and the high costs of acquiring/converting properties (which have historically received public sector funding in the form of HMO grants). Furthermore, the potential impacts of forthcoming Welfare reforms will create a demand for HMO type accommodation and therefore DSD considers that such an approach could not be justified at this time. DSD have stated that this may be reviewed in the future.
- 2.6** DRD/Transport NI introduced one way traffic flows to several streets in the area on 3 February 2014, between Rugby Avenue and Agincourt Avenue. DRD has also completed initial consultations on developing a residents parking scheme in the area and continue to work towards publishing proposals later this year.

Safer Neighbourhoods - Update

- 2.7** Following the decision of the Health and Environmental Services Committee on 17th September 2012, a Safer Neighbourhood Officer team has been established, comprising 8 Safer Neighbourhood Officers in total deployed by the DPCSPs (2 each) to North, South, East and West areas of the city. Safer Neighbourhood Officers undertake the following roles:
- Working with locally elected representatives to resolve local problems;
 - Joint enforcement of on-street drinking on Friday and Saturday nights or at key public events as required;
 - Support for on street enforcement (clean neighbourhoods);

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- Providing assistance to residents and community organisations;
 - Linking in with existing structures to support local engagement.
- 2.8 Deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Officers is also targeted to the Wider University Area at key times of the year including the Freshers period, Halloween and St Patrick's Day. Development of a Dedicated On-Street Safety Service for the Holyland**
- 2.9 The Council continues to negotiate with the Higher Education Institutions on development of an alternative safety service for the area (led by the HEIs but facilitated by the Council). Negotiations are now at an advanced stage and a further update on proposed arrangements will be brought to Committee in the coming months.**

St Patrick's Day 2014 preparations

- 2.10 Multiagency planning arrangements (with PSNI, Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Met) for St Patrick's day are being fully progressed in line with recent years. All 3 Higher Education Institutions have agreed to take 2 reading days on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th March, 2014. In the last couple of years, an extended break has reduced the numbers of students in the area and associated issues over the St Patrick's holiday period. Nonetheless, a comprehensive operational plan co-ordinated by the Council (and supported by key Council services) will be in place to address community safety issues including on street drinking, noise, antisocial behaviour and litter.**
- 3.0 Resource Implications**
- 3.1 Human Resources – In terms of supporting the delivery of the Study, this is through existing Council staff, with no additional costs to the ratepayer.**
- 3.2 Financial – There are likely to be financial costs associated with the implementation of the student housing strategy; however, the scale of these costs will be determined during the development process when testing the viability of purpose built student accommodation and opportunities to source external funding will be considered.**

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4.0 Equality Implications

4.1 Equality and Good Relations considerations are being considered in the development of the student housing framework for the city.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.”

The Head of Environmental Health provided an overview of the report. She outlined the extent of the planning and housing powers which the Council would assume as a result of the Reform of Local Government which could assist it in the regulation of houses of multiple occupancy across Belfast.

A Member stated that, in the period since the Student Housing Strategy had been published, the statutory bodies had not engaged meaningfully with the Council regarding its implementation. He pointed out that antisocial behaviour within the Holyland's area remained at critical levels and, in the absence of a multi-agency approach to the matter, the City-wide proposals, as set out within the Strategy, could not be implemented.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Environmental Health undertook to update the Committee regarding the Council's Safer Neighbourhood Officer Scheme, particularly how it related to the corporate approach to tackling antisocial behaviour across the City.

After further discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Landlord Registrations Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

1.1 The Department for Social Development has introduced the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, which will become operational on 25th February 2014.

1.2 The introduction of landlord registration for the first time in Northern Ireland is seen as a positive step in the regulation of the private rental sector. The purpose of the landlord registration is to create a register of all private landlords. It will give local councils the means to communicate and work with private landlords, allow them to ensure that landlords comply with the law and, where necessary, take enforcement action.

- 1.3 The Department has appointed a registrar who is in charge of the information and may disclose it, on request, to:**
- a district council to enable or assist it to carry out its legal duties;
 - the Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland to help it to carry out its legal duties for rating purposes;
 - the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the purposes of administering housing benefit and the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (the latter to be transferred to councils from April 2015).
- 1.4 Landlords of any new tenancy commencing after 24th February 2014 must register immediately. All other landlords must register before 24th February 2015.**
- 1.5 The offence of the failure of a landlord to register carries a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500. If a landlord is found guilty of providing false information a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500 is applicable. If a landlord fails to provide evidence of registration a maximum fine on conviction of £500 can be given.**
- 1.6 Payment of a fixed penalty will discharge any liability for prosecution. These fixed penalties must be determined by the Council and cannot exceed £500 for the offence of non-registration and providing false information, and £100 for the offence of failing to provide evidence of registration.**

2 Key Issues

- Landlords of any new tenancies created after 24th February 2014 must register with the registrar.
- All other landlords must register before 24th February 2015.
- The register will allow tenants, neighbours and local councils to identify if landlords are registered.
- The register will provide information on the number of landlords in Northern Ireland and allow landlords to receive regular updates on the duties and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.
- The registrar will help provide education and support to landlords.
- It will improve tenants' confidence in their landlords and increase landlords' accountability by promoting good practice and ensuring appropriate advice and assistance is available.

- A landlord will only pay one fee regardless of the number of properties owned; the online registration fee is £70.00 and the paper/non electronic based registration fee is £80.00. A landlord is exempt from the registration fee if they have paid to register a house in multiple occupation which is registered under the House in Multiple Occupation Registration Scheme.
- Fixed penalties can be issued for the 3 offences and the income can only be used for the purposes of the council's functions under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006.
- The sub-group of the Chief Environmental Health Officers have recommended that the setting of fixed penalties should be consistent across Northern Ireland and agreed that the fixed penalty for failure to register be set at £500, the fixed penalty for providing false information be set at £500 and the fixed penalty for failure to provide evidence of registration be set at £100
- It is anticipated that the enforcing council will be the council within which the tenancy is located.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 The enforcement of the provisions of the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 will be accommodated within existing resources.
- 3.2 The level of potential income from fixed penalty notices cannot be readily estimated in advance but its use is restricted to the Council's functions under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006.

5 Recommendations

- 1) note the requirements of the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014
- 2) agree that the fixed penalty for failure to register be set at £500
- 3) agree that the fixed penalty for providing false information be set at £500 and
- 4) agree that the fixed penalty for failure to provide evidence of registration be set at £100"

The Head Environmental Health clarified a range of matters arising from the report. She outlined the rationale which had been utilised in setting a charge in respect of the fixed penalties, with the maximum level being determined within the legislation. She pointed out that the scheme, in itself, would not resolve issues regarding improving

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the standard of housing, but that it was seen by Department for Social Development as an initial step towards the better regulation of that sector.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and endorsed the fixed-penalty charges as outlined.

**Update on the Work of Belfast (District)
Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

1.1 Members will be aware that the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), and the four District PCSPs, were formally established in May, 2012. These are facilitated by the Council and overseen regionally by a Joint Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Membership is made up of elected representatives, independent members (publicly appointed) and statutory (and voluntary) organisations which play a role in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour.

1.2 The (D)PCSPs are awarded an annual allocation of funding by the Joint Committee which must support both running costs and service delivery. In the 2013/2014 financial year the PCSP determined that £500,000 of their available allocation (totalling £775,000) should be directed towards service delivery at a local level. Accordingly, the four DPCSPs developed Area Based Action Plans which included a series of initiatives which they have supported over the course of 2013/2014. Members will also be aware that £122,500 of the Health and Environmental Services Department’s revenue estimates was allocated to the Principal PCSP to support service delivery at a strategic, city-wide level. The Department of Justice seeks to encourage that match funded is levered in to support the work of PCSPs

1.3 (D)PCSPs aim to make our community safer. They do this by focussing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in local areas. They:

- consult and engage with the local community on the issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. The Policing Committee has a distinct responsibility to provide views to the relevant District Commander and the Policing Board on policing matters;**
- identify and prioritise the particular issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled;**

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- **monitor - a Policing Committee comprising the Political and Independent Members will monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime; and**
- **deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in our district, directly through our own interventions, through the work of our delivery groups or through support for the work of others.**

1.4 The Joint Committee has recently asked the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland (CJNI) to conduct review of (D)PCSPs after their first two years of operation, which is due to be completed by June 2014. All (D)PCSP members and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to contribute towards the review.

2 Key Issues

2013/2014

2.1 In 2013/2014, the (D)PCSPs have successfully delivered a series of community safety and policing initiatives across the city. Some examples of this work include:

Strategic Contribution

2.2 The role of Belfast PCSP is to develop a strategic citywide response to policing and community safety needs. Some examples of this work are:

- 1) Human Trafficking – Belfast PCSP took the lead along with Belfast City Council, PSNI Serious Organised Crime Branch and the Department of Justice in raising awareness within Belfast of Human Trafficking. This took the form of an event for frontline service providers across the city with 200 representatives from the hospitality industry, taxi drivers, council officers and postal workers attending. The event was designed to improve knowledge among front line workers of the “tell tale” signs of human trafficking to improve detection. It is expected due to the success of this first event that a similar event will take place in the 2014/2015 year to reach more people. Belfast PCSP is the only partnership across Northern Ireland to take strategic ownership of this issue and is actively engaging with partners with a view to developing a collaborative approach for Belfast. This approach is being supported by Minister for Justice David Ford, OFMDFM Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann and the National Crime Agency.**

- 2) **Drug Dealing – Belfast PCSP has also taken strategic ownership of an inter-agency approach to reducing drug dealing. An advisory group of PCSP members, PSNI, Crimestoppers and service providers developed a campaign to reduce drug dealing by encouraging people to report to Crimestoppers. The campaign is designed to demonstrate the impact drug dealing has on communities, families and young people and is being distributed across Belfast on billboards, taxis and buses along with a social media video and radio campaign. The campaign has already reached many thousands of people in Belfast alone. Belfast PCSP is also the lead partner in rolling the campaign out to other PCSP's across Northern Ireland.**

- 3) **Night Time Economy – Belfast PCSP recognises the excellent work undertaken by individual organisations in relation to night time economy and associated issues. However, the PCSP believes that a more integrated approach will ultimately result in an improved service. As such, Belfast PCSP secured the co-operation of all previous “Get Home Safe Scheme” partners to undertake a formal review of the scheme and to make recommendations on how to improve co-ordination. That review is complete with a unanimous decision by all partners that they believe Belfast PCSP should provide strategic leadership of the development of a citywide strategy to deal with night time economy safety issues and that the partnership previously known as the Get Home Safe Partnership would reconvene on a permanent basis to operationally manage the strategy.**

- 4) **Crime Prevention Event and Youth Awards – Belfast PCSP delivered a citywide Crime Prevention and Safety Event in December 2013 with around 1000 participants from across the city. Additionally, Belfast PCSP delivered its annual Youth Awards, opened by the Minister for Justice David Ford to 200 young people from post primary schools across Belfast.**

Responding to Local Need

- 2.3 **District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSP's) in each of the four areas of Belfast (North, South, East and West) are in place to respond to local community safety need and ensuring local accountability of policing. DPCSP's have undertaken this in a number of ways. For**

each DPCSP one example of this work has been outlined below. However, there are also many other examples.

- 2.4 **North DPCSP** - North Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated the inter-agency response to supporting victims of domestic violence within the area. This has taken the form of a three strand approach. Firstly supporting the development of further “Safe Places” within North Belfast where victims of domestic violence can safely access services, secondly by providing practical crime prevention equipment for victims and finally by hosting a public event to raise awareness of the issue and to promote local service providers.
- 2.5 **South DPCSP** – South Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated the delivery of bespoke training to bar and door staff in licensed premises within South Belfast. This initiative is designed to help those members of staff identify vulnerable members of the public which may be as a result of alcohol or drug use and how to access support services. The initiative is supported by Pubs of Ulster and PSNI and was attended by over 160 bar and door staff from across the area.
- 2.6 **East DPCSP** – East Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated in partnership with the community, the inter-agency response to long term anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Avoniel Leisure Centre. This has involved securing youth work support from within the community to build relationships with the young people involved, delivering a community clean up and an intergenerational event to raise awareness of the consequences of anti-social behaviour amongst the young people involved.
- 2.7 **West DPCSP** – West Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated the multi-agency response to ongoing community tensions and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Broadway roundabout with no disorder reported this year by the community or statutory agencies. This initiative has been viewed as so successful by all stakeholders that early planning is taking place for 2014 and the approach taken in Broadway is being replicated in the Ballymurphy area of West Belfast in response to criminality and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting Local Delivery

- 2.8 **Small grants for local groups** – 41 groups were supported to provide services at a local level, representing an investment of around £212,000 in our city with the aim of improving cooperation between communities and local police; as well

as supporting initiatives which offer positive opportunities and prevent people from becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour. Some of the initiatives that the Partnerships supported include midnight soccer, midnight boxing, dance, football skills programmes, arts and culture schemes, education campaigns, cross community and intergenerational projects and community programmes alongside policing teams.

2014 onwards

- 2.9 The (D)PCSPs are currently developing action plans for the 2014-2015 period for submission to the Joint Committee. While these plans will focus primarily on the allocation of the Joint Committee's funding, they will also outline the DPCSPs work with neighbourhoods and organisations across the city that does not require a specific additional resource allocation.
- 2.10 In the coming year (D)PCSP's will continue to engage with the public as well as addressing the community safety priorities within each area and it is likely that these will include issues such as anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol, burglary, hate crime, violent crime and fear of crime.
- 2.11 The Principal PCSP also intends to further develop its role, focussing on the need to disseminate good practice, support city-wide initiatives and also support the strategic delivery and monitoring of policing.

The Council's allocation of £122,500 towards service delivery as determined by the PCSP has already been agreed as part of the overall revenue estimates. Members may however wish to comment on the priorities identified for this funding by the PCSP i.e. addressing alcohol and drug misuse and antisocial behaviour.

- 2.12 The boundary extensions under Local Government Reform will clearly have an impact on the membership and geographies of the new PCSP and DPCSPs. We are currently working with the Joint Committee to plan a process for moving to a new structure with proportionate resourcing arrangements.

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3. Resource Implications

Financial Resources

- 3.1 £122,500 of service delivery costs per annum until March, 2015. This has already been agreed via the revenue estimates. It is an extension of the financial commitment made previously to the work of the former Community Safety Partnership and District Policing Partnership.**

5. Recommendations

- **to consider any parameters/guidance the Committee would wish to give by way of priorities for spend such as antisocial behaviour and alcohol or drug misuse; and**
- **note that a report on a review of the (D)PCSPs will be brought before the Committee at a later date, which will include an update on the implications and plans for the boundary changes.**

During discussion, the Head of Environmental Health gave an overview of the work which had been undertaken – and which would be carried out – by the Council to extend the work of the current Belfast (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. She advised Members that the Joint Committee of the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board would be carrying out a recruitment exercise during the autumn for the appointment of Independent Members with a view to having that exercise completed by April, 2015.

She pointed out that the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships had taken advice from the aforementioned Joint Committee and it had been advised that similar arrangements would put in place to those which the Council used during the ‘purdah’ period in respect of its meetings.

A number of Members suggested that the future role and remit of the Belfast (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships should be reconsidered. It was suggested, particularly, that the principal Partnership lacked a strategic overview. As such, it was pointed out that the anticipated levels of member engagement and participation had not been realised.

After discussion, during which the Director outlined the process by which the views of Members would be incorporated within the review of the Belfast (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, which would be overseen by the Department of Justice, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Amendment to Traffic Regulation Orders (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee was reminded that the Council had, at its Annual Meeting on 3rd June, 2013, passed a resolution in respect of the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation

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(East Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013; and had, at its meeting on 6th January, 2014, passed a Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013. The purpose of those Orders was to prohibit the use, except in certain circumstances, by pedestrians and vehicles of specified streets so that alleygates could be erected.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that, subsequent to the meeting of the Council of 3rd June, 2013, it had been noted that an Order relating to a gate to the rear of 88 to 94 Templemore Avenue in East Belfast had been omitted in error. In addition, in respect of South Belfast, amendments were required for four sites for which the expected level of responses to public consultation had not been received during the original process. However, subsequent consultation exercises had been undertaken and the required response levels had since been attained.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that, at its meeting on 1st April, it agrees to pass resolutions to amend the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (East Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013; and amend the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013, in respect of the following sites:

- to the rear of 44 to 116 Fitzroy Avenue;
- to the rear of 118 to 140 Fitzroy Avenue and to the side of 40 Fitzroy Avenue;
- to the rear of 26 to 102 University Avenue and to the side of 54-56 University Avenue;
- to the rear of 2 to 16 Cadogan Street and to the side of 2 and 16 Cadogan Street; and
- to the rear of 88 to 94 Templemore Avenue.

Contract for the Collection and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes

The Committee was reminded that the Waste Management Service had, since May, 2005, provided a service for the collection and disposal of a range of asbestos materials from domestic households within the City, the current contract for which had been awarded in 2010. In addition, the Council had collected and disposed of other such hazardous waste which had been dumped illegally, or brought to the Council's Household Recycling Centres. The Head of Waste Management reported that such work was carried out on the Council's behalf by a single licensed contractor who disposed of the asbestos in accordance with the provisions of the Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the relevant duty of care legislation.

He explained that the contract for the service was due to expire and it was deemed appropriate to undertake a tendering exercise for the future delivery of the service. Accordingly, he sought the Committee's approval to commence a tendering exercise for the collection and disposal of household and illegally dumped asbestos materials and hazardous waste. He estimated cost of the service would be in the region of £50,000 per annum, provision for which had been made within the Service's revenue estimates.

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The Committee granted the approval sought to commence the tendering exercise and granted, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, authority to the Director to award the contract at the conclusion of the process.

Update on ReNEW Programme

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th January, 2013, it had granted approval for the Council to participate in the Resource Innovation Network for European Waste (ReNEW) project. That project, which was funded under the INTERREG IVB programme, was being led by The Queen's University of Belfast's QUESTOR Centre.

The Head of Waste Management provided an update in respect of the Programme. He indicated that the Council had developed a survey which would identify the key drivers and barriers to innovation in materials recovered in each of the four European Member States involved in the project. He indicated that the data would shortly be collated and would then be used to inform further research on how the Council could contribute to initiatives within the Programme. He added that the Council had been working with Questor to deliver these initiatives as part of the programme and that might entail the use of students or consultants to assist in that work.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and authorised the Director to nominate appropriate officers to represent the Council at up to three meetings of the ReNEW partnership per year.

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management - National Conference

The Head of Waste Management informed the Committee that the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, in association with the Environmental Services Association, would be holding its annual Conference and Exhibition in the Royal College of Surgeons in London from 18th until 19th June. He indicated that the Conference fee for Affiliate Members was £550, provision for which had been made within the Department's revenue estimates. Accordingly, he recommended that the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director and the Head of Waste Management (or their nominees) be authorised to attend the Conference.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Proposed Mattress Recycling Service

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- "1 Purpose of Report**
1.1 The Service is seeking approval to commence a procurement exercise for the provision of a mattress recycling service.

2 Background

- 2.1** Approximately 3,000 mattresses are disposed of annually at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). These items are problematic in terms of disposal at landfill and at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) due to their physical nature and multitude of component materials. Historically, despite a number of expressions of interest, a consistent service provider which can recycle this type of waste has not materialised.
- 2.2** Recent market soundings suggest that this may have changed and there now may be a number of potential providers for the treatment of mattresses. The Service is keen to tackle this bulky and problematic waste stream which it is estimated could contribute up to 100 tonnes per annum of recyclables and assist with the delivery of the '*Towards Zero Waste*' Action Plan (ZWAP).
- 2.3** Within ZWAP there are a number of targets that apply to the prospect of recycling mattresses:
- Improving recycling opportunities at recycling centres
 - Develop new recycling campaigns and community based recycling schemes
 - Increase the amount of recyclables collected from existing waste collections.
- 2.4** In November 2013, the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) concluded a piece of research to review technologies and techniques available for cleaning mattresses for re-use. This research looked into the viability of cleaning mattresses to produce a fully recycled product which could re-enter the supply chain for a second lifecycle as a fully integral unit.
- 2.5** The benefits were marginal and the results of the cleaning showed that the cost in most cases outweighed the benefits. Only high-end quality mattresses, and price, would have the sufficient residual value to warrant the cost outlay. That said there is the issue of where the product could be resold. Traditionally such products are re-sold through charity outlets or reuse organisations. The price for the cleaned mattress would in all likelihood be more than the price at which a person could secure a new mattress from the current retail sector, therefore there would not be any advantage.
- 2.6** Based on the WRAP report, it is unlikely that the cost benefits and the market would accept cleaned mattresses. Recycling therefore is the next logical phase of the mattress lifecycle.

2.7 Additionally, the establishment of this service will reduce the potential for unscrupulous activity in the second hand/reconditioned mattress market where mattresses can be '*remanufactured*' before being returned to the market. Unfortunately, the remanufacturing process can sometimes involve a simple casing being placed around the old mattress and glued shut to prevent re-opening. Previously, this has resulted in old, soiled mattresses re-entering the market which are unlikely to even be fire retardant treated.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The Service is keen to explore the opportunities for the recycling of mattresses disposed of at the HRCs. It is proposed that a procurement exercise is initiated in order to recycle around 3,000 mattresses a year which could contribute 100 tonnes of recyclables to the recycling targets. Once this service has been established, the Council could then look to expand the service to include the mattresses collected as part of the bulky household waste collections.

3.2 At present the mattresses received at the recycling centres are placed in the residual waste skips and then transported to a MRF for treatment where, on average, 40% of the material is recycled. It is estimated that the percentage of recyclables extracted from this waste stream could be as high as 90% if the items are deconstructed manually rather than undergoing a shredding operation. (Once separated into its component parts the individual items such as springs, coverings, foams and insulators would be recycled.)

3.3 This type of process could be suited to a '*supported factory*' (i.e. a facility with more than 50% of the workforce is registered as disabled). It is the intention of the Service to limit this contract to those providers which run '*supported factories*', a condition which is permissible under the OJEU procurement framework.

3.4 This proposal has the potential for to deliver not only a benefit to the Council in terms of meeting a need (i.e. to increase diversion from landfill and increase recycling) but could also to add social value to the process and thereby tie in with the principles of the Council's Investment Programme.

3.5 The proposal further provides for a positive impact on the Council's Disability Action Plan by engaging with people with a disability.

4 Resource Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

Based on treating the 3,000 mattresses received at the HRCs, and on market intelligence, it is estimated that the value of this service will be approximately £25,000 per annum. When the alternative treatment method is factored in, the net cost to the Council is estimated at £15,000 per annum.

The Service is proposing a 3 year contract with the possibility of one year's extension subject to satisfactory performance as this will provide a level of certainty to the project to make it more economically viable for the contractor. Agreeing to such a term would also permit the Council to apply to the DOE under its Rethink Waste Capital fund for the initial set-up costs.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource issues associated with this report.

4.3 Asset and Other Implications

No asset or other considerations associated with this report.

5 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

6 Recommendation

6.1 The Committee is requested to:

- approve a procurement exercise for the treatment and recycling of mattresses which will be restricted to '*supported factories*' for a period of three years, with the potential for a one year extension subject to satisfactory performance, and
- delegate authority to the Director of Health and Environmental Services to exercise her authority under the Scheme of Delegation to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender."

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The Committee granted the approval sought to commence the tendering exercise and granted, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, authority to the Director to award the contract at the conclusion of that process.

Public Convenience Provision Strategy – Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 6th February, it had considered a report regarding the British Toilet Association's recommendations which had arisen from its study for a future Public Convenience Provision Strategy for Belfast.

The Head of Waste Management pointed out that 15 recommendations had been made for the Council's consideration. He explained that the Service had categorised those recommendations into short, medium and long-term, with the short-term recommendations to be completed by the end of March, 2014, and the medium-term ones by the end of December, 2014. The recommendations are set out hereunder:

Short-Term

- to review the baseline study and to identify and identify other Council facilities which could be made available to the public;
- to conduct a cost-benefit analysis re: the introduction of charging to eradicate social misuse and vandalism;
- to conduct a cost-benefit analysis to consider employing attendants at key locations; and
- to develop appropriate cleaning, maintenance and security schedules.

Medium Term

- to consider the installation of composting toilets at remote locations; and
- to reassign and develop existing properties or locations.

The Head of Waste Management indicated that the British Toilet Association had been commissioned to carry out further work in respect of the short-term recommendations. He indicated that, on completion of the work associated with the short and medium term recommendations, the Service would be in a better position to consider its longer-term objectives on the Strategy and the Committee would be apprised in due course.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted further that updates on the findings of the British Toilet Association's work would be submitted in due course.

Tender for the Treatment and Disposal of Residual Waste

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek an extension to the existing tender for the treatment and disposal of residual waste. This will allow the Council to comply with the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) legislation for 2014/15.

2 Background

- 2.1 The EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EU) requires Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill within target limits up to 2020. These requirements are reflected in the NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) Regulations introduced by the DOE. This sets annually reducing NILAS allowances available to councils, with Belfast allowances reducing from 45,652 this financial year to 43,218 tonnes in 2014/15.

- 2.2 There is provision within the scheme to fine councils up to £150 per tonne for exceeding the annually reducing allowances and there is also a mechanism in place within arc21 whereby councils can transfer allowances between councils to avoid such fines (up to a maximum arc21 area tonnage).

- 2.3 Members will be aware that the arc21 regional waste group is in the process of procuring major plant to treat the municipal residual waste stream in the longer term. It is anticipated that the procurement exercise will be concluded by December 2014. This contract would also provide for interim treatment arrangements until the new plant is built.

- 2.4 Given the ongoing complexity of the arc21 procurement exercise and the associated delays, the Council initiated its own, short term, residual waste treatment contract in December 2012 in order to deliver NILAS compliance and increase recycling. In March 2013, Members agreed to extend this contract for 2013/2014.

- 2.5 Throughout the course of the year, the Waste Management Service has been directing the contractor in terms of the split of material going for treatment or landfill to ensure that the contract remains within the budgetary constraints of the Department.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council has a short term contract in place for the treatment of residual waste. The primary purpose of this

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contract is to ensure compliance with the NILAS regulations, however it also makes a notable contribution to the city's recycling rate.

- 3.2** In 2013, the contractor, NWP Recycling, treated 68,000 tonnes at its two facilities in Portadown and Glenside. This resulted in:
- the diversion of around 21,200 tonnes of biodegradable waste from landfill;
 - delivery on the Council's Zero Waste Action Plan commitment to *'Use treatment facilities to recover waste from the black bins which could have been recycled at home'* by contributing 3% to the household recycling rate;
 - meeting legislative obligations regarding landfill restrictions;
 - demonstrating *'best endeavours'* under the NILAS regulations; and
 - applying the waste hierarchy of recycling and energy recovery, before landfill
 - disposal.
- 3.3** Recent projections indicate that existing contract will enable the Council to meet its NILAS obligations for 2013/2014 without the requirement to request transfer of allowances from the constituent councils of arc21.
- 3.4** Members previously agreed that this initial, short-term contract should be extended for the 2013/14 financial year in order to meet NILAS obligations and make a contribution to the city's recycling rate.
- 3.5** Last month SP&R agreed to make financial provision for a contingent liability so that the arc21 procurement exercise could continue but in the event that this exercise is not successful, the Service will need to commence a new procurement exercise for the provision of a longer term residual waste treatment contract. This would then be the subject of a separate report to Committee in due course.
- 3.6** By extending the existing NILAS contingency contract again, the Council will meet its NILAS obligations in 2014/15, without recourse to the transfer of allowances protocol.
- 3.7** The current NILAS contingency contract provides the option of renewal subject to the arc21 contract not being in place, satisfactory performance of the contractor and compliance with any relevant legislative changes. Having discussed the present situation with Legal Services, their advice is that the

contract should now be extended on a monthly basis, hereinafter subject to appropriate management review of contract performance in order to provide suitable flexibility should a further interim procurement be necessary.

- 3.8** Should this extension not be approved, the Council would have to revert to landfill as the primary disposal route. This would result in the Council exceeding the NILAS allowance by an estimated 11,000 tonnes. It would also mean that the Council would require NILAS allowance transfers from the arc21 councils. It would also likely lead to a reduction of Belfast's recycling rate of at least 3%.
- 3.9** The Council would also have to commence a procurement exercise for the provision of a haulage service as this service is provided by NWP under the present contract.
- 3.10** If Members approve this course of action, given the value of the contract extensions, a similar report will also be taken to the Statutory Transition Committee.

4 Resource Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The costs of extending this contract have been allowed for within the Service's revenue estimates.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource issues associated with this report.

4.3 Asset and Other Implications

There are no asset or other implications associated with this report.

5 Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 5.1** There are no relevant equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1** The Committee is requested to extend the existing NILAS contingency contract on a rolling one month basis, subject to appropriate management review of contractual performance."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Rethink Waste Submissions

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the Council’s applications to the DOE Rethink Waste Capital Fund for 2014/2015 which were submitted recently.

2 Background

2.1 The DOE launched the Rethink Waste Capital Fund for Councils 2014/2015 late last year. The fund was established to support councils in increasing and sustaining diversion of household and local authority collected municipal waste from landfill through recycling and re-use and through the improvement of the quality of recyclates.

2.2 This in turn will contribute to meeting statutory recycling targets and support the resource efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in ‘*Delivering Resource Efficiency*’ (the NI Waste Management Strategy) and the waste management plans of the regional waste management groups.

2.3 The available fund for 2014/2015 is £1.27 million and any projects introduced are expected to be in place by 31st March, 2015. The fund has highlighted a number of priority materials such as; source segregated food waste, mixed plastic packaging, textiles, paper, card and non-ferrous metals, however other materials are not necessarily excluded.

2.4 This particular fund is only for capital items and schemes proposed for funding must:

- Address household waste and local authority collected municipal waste**
- Be additional to existing provision**
- Fit with the strategic aims of the council and/or Waste Management groups and follow a good practice approach.**
- Come with a firm budgetary commitment from the council to meet the ongoing revenue costs of delivering the service in the medium to long term (min. 3 years)**

2.5 The 2014/2015 fund is operating as a scheduled open call for bids. There will be periodic assessment of bids received by the notified cut-off dates of 10 February, 24 March, 12 May, 16 June and 28 July.

2.6 All the applications are assessed by a panel chaired by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) who administers the scheme on behalf of the DOE. The panel will assess each project on the value for money over the life of the project against a number of criteria including:

- Additional tonnage diverted from landfill/recycled/re-used and any associated CO2 savings;
- Quality of the design of the proposed project (i.e. good practice);
- Ability to deliver the project;
- Quality of arrangements and security of feedstock;
- End markets for materials;
- Sustainability of the project – budget commitment;
- Health & Safety arrangements.

2.7 Following this process, the successful applicants will discuss and agree funding packages with WRAP. The projects are monitored on an annual basis, for three years, against projected tonnages to ensure value for money is achieved.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The DOE has launched the Rethink Waste Capital Fund for Councils 2014/15. The Service has submitted a number of applications by the first deadline date of 10 February. These proposed projects will contribute directly towards the delivery of the Council's *'Towards Zero Waste Action Plan'* targets and lay the foundations for service integration post Local Government Reform (LGR).

3.2 The applications which have been submitted to the Rethink Waste Fund are as follows;

➤ Kerbside collection of glass

3.3 This project proposes to introduce a separate glass collection in the new Belfast Council blue bin area. It is expected that the project will divert up to 3,300 tonnes of glass and add around 3% per annum to Belfast's recycling rate.

➤ Kerbside collection of food waste by external caddy

3.4 This project proposes to introduce a food waste collection scheme to 5,000 households within the inner city. It is estimated that the project will yield around 0.2% to the Council's recycling rate.

➤ LGR Box to Bin

- 3.5** This project proposes converting around 2,840 households presently in Castlereagh Borough Council from a kerbside box to a blue comingled bin system with a kerbside box for glass. This new scheme will ensure increased levels of recyclables under the new scheme.

➤ **LGR: Standardised approach to kerbside collections, bins and communications**

- 3.6** It is vital that under the Local Government Reform when the new households transfer on 1 April 2015, services are maintained at the existing level if not enhanced. In Lisburn, the residual bin is the blue bin and the recycling bin is a green bin (in North Down, the brown/organic waste bin is green). To arrive at a consistent approach for both householders and collection staff it is proposed that Belfast's colour code (blue = dry recyclables, brown = organic waste, grey = residual waste) be adopted.

At the same time as changing the colour of the bins, it is envisaged that a kerbside box will be provided to householders for the collection of glass. This new scheme will ensure increased levels of recyclables under the new scheme.

➤ **Extend commercial waste recycling collections**

- 3.7** This proposal has been submitted by Cleansing Services and involves an improved commercial waste recycling service for the collection of dry mixed recyclables, food waste and glass. The project will make it simple for commercial customers to recycle their waste by providing dry mixed recyclables, a separate container for glass and another for food waste. This proposal would significantly improve the level of commercial waste recycling, projected to increase to 3,000 tonnes, with the implementation of this scheme.

4 Resource Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1** There are no financial implications directly associated with this report but, depending upon which submissions are successful, there will be revenue costs. These will be factored into the Service's budgeting process for 2015/16 once the successful projects have been announced

5 Recommendation

- 5.1** The Committee is requested to note the applications submitted to the DOE Rethink Waste Capital fund for 2014/2015."

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The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

International Compost Awareness Week

The Head of Waste Management reminded the Committee that, as part of International Compost Awareness Week, the Council had, in previous years, provided a limited number of bags of compost for collection free of charge at the four Household Recycling Centres in the City. He indicated that the 2014 event would take place from 5th till 11th May and each of the Centres would be provided with approximately 1,000 bags of compost for distribution on a first come, first served basis. He outlined the success and popularity of the initiative and gave an overview of the publicity which the Council would undertake to promote International Compost Awareness Week.

Noted.

Chairman