

The Belfast Agenda

Belfast Agenda Refresh

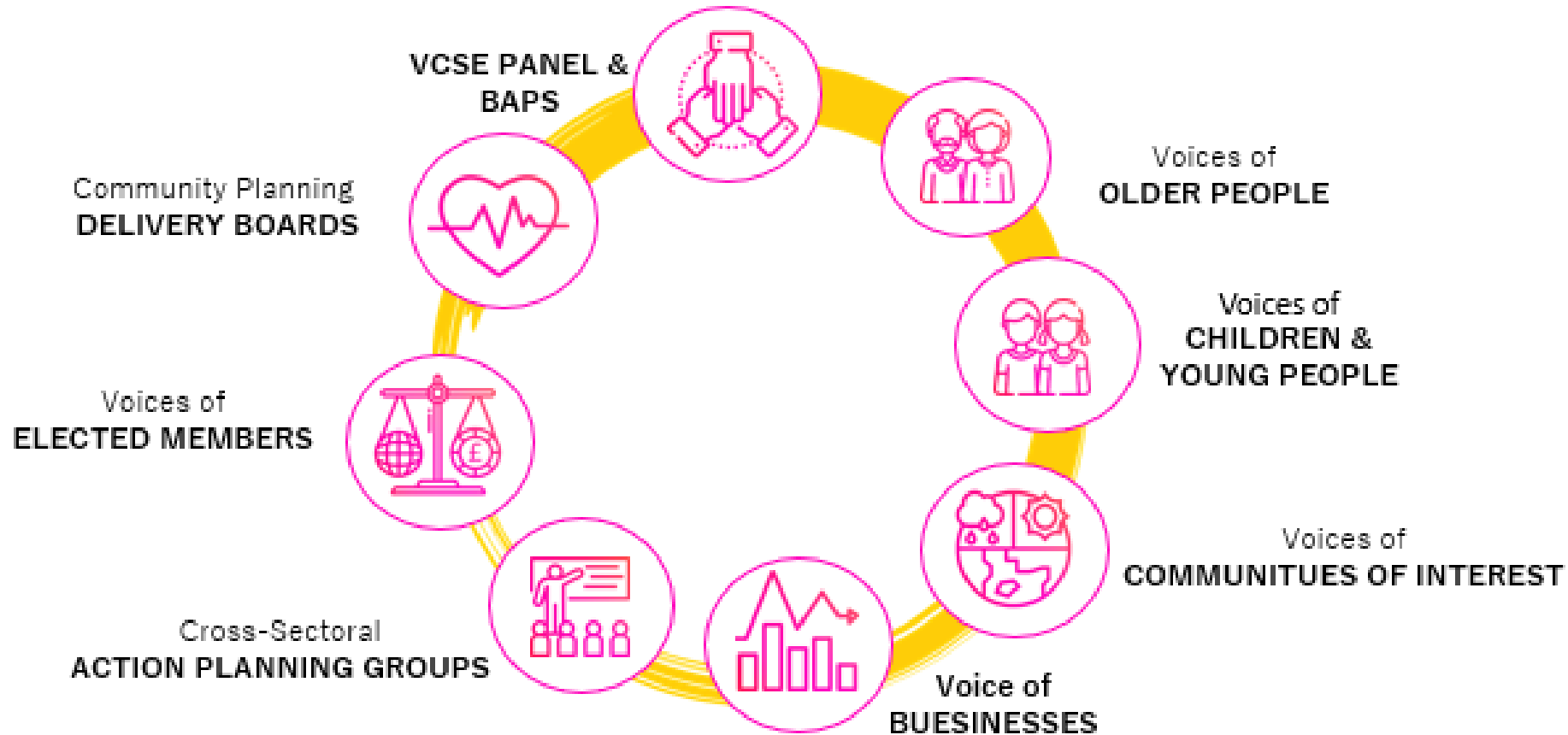
8 February 2024



Timeline: Our Shared Journey



Collaborative Approach



Participation and Engagement

Phase 1: June – November 2021 Strategic Framework: Vision, outcomes and priorities

- 6 workshops via Zoom
- 130 participants
- 63 organisations
- 435 survey responses (online & paper)
- Community Planning Delivery Boards and VCSE Panel workshop sessions



Phase 2: Oct. – Nov. 2022 Priority Action Plans: Strategic intents and measures of success

- 10 workshops
 - Online | Face-to-Face
 - Area | Thematic | Communities of interest
 - Elected members, business/ developers and equality, diversity and inclusion.
- 176 participants from 110 organisations
- Online discussion forum responses and paper comments via comment boxes
- Community Planning Delivery Boards and VCSE Panel workshop sessions

Phase 3: August – October 2023 Formal Public Consultation: Strategy & Action Plans

- 82 survey responses (68 online and 14 written submissions)
- EQIA consultation
 - 4 public meetings – two online and two face-to-face
 - 8 written responses
- Community Planning Delivery Boards and VCSE Panel meetings

**Belfast will be a city
re-imagined and
resurgent.
A great place to live
and work
for everyone.**

Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict.

A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone.

A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region.

A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world.

A city people dream to visit.

Belfast will be a city...



Our city is home
to an additional
66,000
people



Our economy
supports
46,000
additional jobs



By 2035...

There will be a

33%



**reduction in the life
expectancy gap**

between the most and least
deprived neighbourhoods

**Every
young
person leaving
school**



has a destination that
fulfils their potential

**Our carbon
emissions will
be reduced by**

80%



Our focus for the next four years



KEY

Theme 1: Our people and communities – Making life better for all our residents

Theme 2: Our Economy – Creating inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

Theme 3: Our Place – Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Theme 4: Our Environment – Creating a net-zero emissions and climate-resilient city

Theme 5: Compassionate City - Leaving no one behind – making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city.

Call to Action

Devolution of further place-shaping powers such as regeneration to councils.



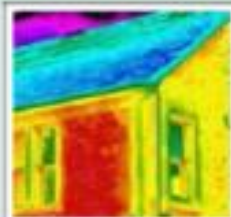
Climate Change Act framework for tackling climate change and roadmap to net zero emissions.



DfC Anti-Poverty Strategy - helping alleviate impact of poverty across the city.



Housing retrofit - investing in the energy efficiency of the existing and new homes within the city.



Mental Health Strategy – reform of services, together with the promotion of positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience across society.



Childcare Strategy - deliver extended, affordable and high-quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged three to four.



High speed rail - investing in a high-speed rail network and service between Belfast and Dublin.



A Bolder Vision create a more attractive, accessible, safe, vibrant, and reimagined City Centre.



Belfast Region City Deal – unlocking £1 billion co-investment to deliver more than 20 transformative projects and programmes, create up to 20,000 new and better jobs and help make the region a global investment destination.



10X Economy – embraces innovation to deliver a ten times better economy which benefits all our people.



Enabling environment for change

City Leadership

which is empowered to place-shape local economies and communities



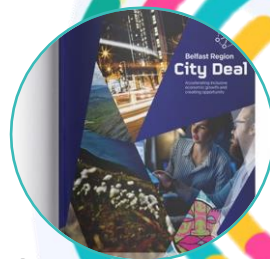
Ensuring alignment with Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035

which will facilitate growth by coordinating to where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community and environment



Partnership Working

maximising the opportunities for all through strong established partnerships including e.g., Community Planning, Belfast Region City Deal and VCSE Panel.



Aligning our **collective funding** to city outcomes and accessing national and regional funding opportunities.



Maximise use of **resources and assets** to deliver collaborative gains and outcomes for the city and our people.



Accountability – clear accountability for delivery through our city governance. Working together to deliver shared city outcomes and being subject to public accountability.

Our focus for next four years

Our people and communities

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Health inequalities

1. Address chronic homelessness by focusing on vulnerability and supporting the physical, mental, and social needs of those impacted.,
2. Promote and improve positive mental health and emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of support and services available and actions that can be taken at an individual level to improve or maintain good mental health.
3. Improve health by focusing on narrowing the inequality gap, increasing levels of physical activity and reducing the numbers of people who are obese or overweight.

Community and neighbourhood regeneration

1. Develop a joined-up approach towards neighbourhood regeneration, connecting our people, places, and services at a local level through partnership, planning and delivery supported by strong and empowered communities and citizens. For example, four area-based plans.

Our economy

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Educational inequalities

1. Every child and young person is supported in their wellbeing and learning so that they develop the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential and progress into a positive destination (such as employment or further and higher education)

Jobs and skills

1. Create Inclusive pathways to good employment.
2. Improve the alignment of skills demand and supply to support sustainable business growth.
3. Drive enhanced productivity and create better jobs through investment in innovation and skills.

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth

1. Help grow local business by improving innovation, growth and survival rates, particularly in sectors aligned with the NI Executives vision for a 10 x Economy.
2. Work together to support innovative businesses to grow and become more competitive through a relentless focus on innovation and external sales aligned with the vision for a 10x Economy.
3. Support digital transformation within the local economy.
4. Improve socio-economic inclusion by supporting businesses to adopt more inclusive practices, providing fair work and decent pay, and supporting local growth.

Our place	
Priorities	Areas of focus (action)
Housing-led regeneration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work together to increase housing supply across all tenures in the city council area. 2. Work together to increase the provision of social housing (including accessible properties) across the city council area. 3. Increase the city centre residential population. 4. Adopt a placemaking approach to develop thriving and sustainable communities. 5. Deliver a strategic shift towards the prevention of homelessness. 6. Improve energy efficiency in social housing through retrofit.
Connectivity, active and sustainable travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) which will provide the strategic framework for bringing forward our climate commitments, supporting the integration of a prioritised and modernised public transport system and a network of walking and cycling routes. 2. Deliver the second stage of the Belfast local Development Plan 2035 which supports an efficient integrated transport network offering travel choice that minimises congestion and pollution. 3. Support projects that encourage people to use forms of sustainable travel. 4. Support behavioural change projects that replace car journeys with walking, wheeling and cycling.
Future city centre and wider regeneration and investment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform the city centre into a dynamic, vibrant and experiential destination, whilst sustaining its distinctive offering 2. Support the delivery of a placemaking approach to the physical and cultural regeneration of the city 3. Attract more visitors who stay longer and spend more in local economy. 4. Promote and position the city to compete globally to attract inclusive and sustainable investment.

Our planet

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change.

1. Increase the number of trees across the city.
2. Develop a demonstrator site in Botanic Gardens to test nature-based solutions through the UPSURGE project to strengthen climate resilience.
3. Promote the uptake of nature-based solutions across the city to support climate resilience.

Creating a sustainable circular economy

1. Promote sustainable circular economy approaches.
2. Promote a Just Transition to Net Zero in Belfast
3. Increase the use of Electric Vehicles in Belfast and improve access to charge points.
4. Reduce energy consumption (and bills) of housing and public /commercial buildings.
5. Decarbonise the heat supply to buildings in the city.
6. Embed sustainable food practices and partnership working in Belfast.

Innovating to Net Zero

1. Deliver Belfast Local Energy Action Plan.
2. Support the city to decarbonise at scale.
3. Create a net zero zone park to design and demonstrate green technology.
4. Develop a stable supply of green energy to the Net Zero Park and surrounding lands to support the industrial cluster.
5. Accelerate the transition to low carbon manufacturing.
6. Support Green Multi-Modal Mobility.

A Compassionate City

Priorities	Areas of focus (action)
Inclusive growth and anti-poverty	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Embed more inclusive practices across the city, supporting organisations to use their powers as employers, procurers, <u>investors</u> and community members to enable those at risk of economic exclusion to participate in the city's social and economic opportunities.2. Develop strategic and co-ordinated approaches to address the adverse impacts of poverty and support those most in need.3. Expand our efforts to build community wealth, which seeks to redirect and retain wealth back into local communities and the local economy, and place greater control and benefits with local people.4. Develop Belfast's status as a learning city through fostering a culture of lifelong learning which allows everyone to fulfil their potential.
Good relations and shared future	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand and address inequalities and support the inclusion and integration of all communities including minority ethnic communities.2. Enhance good relations across the city and deliver joined-up and innovative approaches to the new Peace Plus programme
Older people	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure Belfast is an Age Friendly City by meeting the needs of older people and maximising the benefits from their lived experiences.2. Support our older people to live healthy and socially connected lives with a focus on those most in need
Children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure every child is seamlessly supported through their early years (children aged 8 and under) to realise their potential to develop and thrive.2. Increase the participation, empowerment and resilience of children and young people

Focus and next steps

- Distributed leadership approach - partners taking ownership and self-mobilising / tasking
- Focus on delivery and building momentum
- Resource commitments – enabling and ensuring delivery
- Greater focus on localities and tailoring approaches
- Performance - measuring impact
- CPP endorsement and formal launch of Belfast Agenda refresh

