



Subject:	DSD Belfast Streets Ahead – Phase 3 public realm scheme
Date:	22 nd April, 2015
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Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to remind Members of the DSD Belfast Streets Ahead project and to provide an update on recent progress: in addition, to highlight Council input and position developed to date, ahead of the anticipated planning application for this project.
2.0	Recommendations
	The committee is asked to note the contents of this report, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a recap for Members on the Belfast Streets Ahead – Phase 3 as a significant public realm scheme for the city centre;• The progress in recent months from concept design stage to more detailed designs, and the anticipated submission of a planning application to Council.
3.0	Main report
3.1	This DSD project is a significant public realm scheme aimed at city centre regeneration covering three specific geographic sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Section 1: Royal Avenue, from Castle Place to North Street Junction.➢ Section 2: Library Square and Royal Avenue, including Library Street, Little Donegal Street and Union Street.➢ Section 3: Cathedral Gardens including Talbot Street, Exchange Street West, Academy Street (part), York Street, Frederick Street and the interface with

	University of Ulster (existing and new) campus buildings.
3.2	In January 2015 Members of the Transition Committee received a presentation from DSD officials regarding the draft concept design proposals. Following this presentation Council submitted a formal consultation response, as ratified at Shadow Council meeting in February. Since then, the design proposals have been further developed and an anticipated application for planning permission is due to be submitted to Council in April 2015 (See Appendix 1 for further development of Cathedral Garden proposals).
3.3	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals under this public realm scheme fit well with a number of policy areas that Council has identified for the city centre, for example, the need to create a green, walkable, cyclable centre, and it complements the focus in the north of the city centre to create an area of learning and innovation. Furthermore, this project has the potential to have a positive impact on aspects of the emerging draft VCM for the city (See Appendix 2), such as creating an attractive and sustainable place, and the focus around the theme of city development. • Since the concept design stage some minor changes have been made to the boundary of this scheme. The North Queen Street/Clifton Street <i>junction</i> is being dealt with as part of a road junction enhancement by Transport NI, however there remains a public realm area of work at the North Queen Street/Clifton Street junction, so this should not detract from the scheme. In addition initial work has commenced around a proposal for a pavilion within the grounds of the Cathedral Gardens, which would provide a facility that would offer an opportunity of a café/activity hub. Further work is required to consider the operational and management implications of such a facility, linking closely with council's Parks Department, in order to identify the best option going forward. • The budget required for the delivery of Belfast Streets Ahead Phase is estimated between £30-35million. From the initial LGR funding allocation to Belfast City Council to deliver against new regeneration functions, it was clear that it was not possible for Council to deliver a large scale project like Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3. As a result Council has continued to develop and present the case that this public realm scheme should be treated as a project of regional significance thereby having the potential to secure the necessary budget from central government. Council Members and Officers have recently met with the Minister of Department for Social Development to continue to pursue this case.

<p>3.4</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at present. However continued liaison between relevant council Departments and DSD will be required to ensure whole life costs and resource implications, particularly around BCC maintenance and operational activities, are reflected in the Business Case for this scheme.</p>
<p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Asset and other implications</u></p> <p>Section 3 of the design proposals is specific to property of Belfast City Council, namely Cathedral Gardens. Therefore continued input and consideration of the implications for this council site, and wider generation framework for the city centre, is important.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This is a DSD project and therefore primary responsibility for consideration and addressing equality and good relation implications sit with DSD. However, in the council's consultation response to concept design proposals we provided feedback and comment in relation to Section 75 groups.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – DSD Belfast Streets Ahead – Phase 3, Cathedral Gardens further design Appendix 2 – Emerging Draft VCM for the city</p>