



| | |
|--|---|
| Subject: | Living With Water Programme |
| Date: | 3 December 2015 |
| Reporting Officer: | Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects |
| Contact Officer: | Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects |
| 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 |
| 1.1 | To update the Committee on major drainage infrastructure required to meet EU compliance, address current poor standards and ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to allow the City to develop and grow as well as to ensure adequate protection is in place to address potential climate change impacts. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The committee is asked to note the update and agree to receive further updates including from DRD who are the lead department in relation to this programme, as proposals develop. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | Appendix 1 sets out in an overview paper the main issues related to the Living With Water Programme (LWWP) which aims to protect the City, enhance existing infrastructure and allow the City to grow in economic terms. |
| 3.2 | DRD are fully aware that the Belfast drainage infrastructure is inadequate in terms of dealing with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood risk |

| | |
|------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution of Belfast Lough in contravention with EU standards • Lack of capacity in the main Waste Water Treatment plant at Duncrue. |
| 3.3 | To address these issues and to ensure that the City can grow both in terms of business and residential development DRD have developed a programme of work Living With Water. The programme aims to create a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan. |
| 3.4 | There are a range of key stakeholders addressing water related issues across government including DRD, Rivers Agency, DOE and so on as well as subsidiary organisations such as NI Water, Transport NI. Belfast City Council is also a key player given our role in producing the Local Development Plan, the fact that we own large areas of open space suitable for drainage relief, we act as a developers of capital schemes and also seek to stimulate private investment and most importantly are the most direct point of contact for the citizen via local representatives and our proximity to the community. |
| 3.5 | DRD have established a group of Officers from across these organisations now working on several work packages to produce a coherent plan (see appendix 2). |
| 3.6 | At present estimates to undertake a suitable programme of works range from £350 to £750m with an estimate of up to 10 years in terms of delivery. |
| 3.7 | Not only will the funding have to be found if City Growth is not to be curtailed, there will also be a fair period of disruption as and when these works are undertaken. Again this will need careful communication and management if it is not to impact negatively on the City's economy. |
| 3.8 | These issues are all subjects of various work packages currently being undertaken. |
| 3.9 | There are some fairly obvious implications for Belfast City Council as members are fully aware of flood risks, Council land will potentially be required eg King George V Playing Fields for infrastructure and of course the big question of how all this is to be paid for. |
| 3.10 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at present.</p> |
| 3.11 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| 4.1 | Appendix 1 – Living With Water Programme, An Overview Appendix 2 – Work Packages |