



Subject:	Requests to present to CG&R Committee – Special
Date:	9 March 2016
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	The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval for a presentation to a future special meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee by representatives from the Living with Water programme (DRD), Streets Ahead (DSD) and Purpose Build Student Accommodation (QUB)
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agree to hold a Special Committee meeting (date to be agreed in consultation with the Chair) to receive presentations in relation to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Living with Water (DRD)- Streets Ahead Phase 3 (DSD)- Purpose Build Managed Student Accommodation at Elms Village (QUB)
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Living with Water Members will recall the update on the Living Water Programme provided at the special CG&R Committee on December 3 rd which outlined plans to enhance existing drainage infrastructure and allow the city to grow in economic terms. The inadequacy of the Belfast drainage infrastructure in dealing with flood risk, pollution of the Belfast Lough which could lead to contravention with EU standards and a lack of capacity in the main Waste Water Treatment plant at Duncrue were all discussed.

3.2	<p>DRD are fully aware that the Belfast drainage infrastructure is inadequate in terms of dealing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk • Pollution of Belfast Lough in contravention with EU standards • Lack of capacity in the main Waste Water Treatment plant at Duncrue.
3.3	<p>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 and updates on the progress of the Programme will be provided at the presentation.</p>
3.4	<p>Streets Ahead</p> <p>It is recommended that DSD also be invited to attend the Special Committee meeting to provide Members with an update on the current status and proposed next steps for the Streets Ahead Phase 3 scheme. It would be the intention that DSD would give a presentation to inform Members' discussions.</p>
3.5	<p>Members will be aware that the Department for Social Development has been progressing work on the plans for Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 and have now completed the design work, which has been informed by input from the Council which is represented on the Project Board. A key element of this project is the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens. The plans for Cathedral Gardens include environmental upgrades to maximise the open space and attractiveness of the area including greening it, the installation of benches, open space for performances etc. The plans also include the development of a pavilion facility which can be used for a range of purposes including community usage and events. The overall estimated budget for Phase 3 is £35m with the high level estimates for the works at Cathedral Gardens being approximately £5million. The upgrade of Cathedral Gardens has been identified within the Council's City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy as a key opportunity to provide a new open space within the city centre linked to the Streets Ahead Phase 3 scheme.</p>
3.6	<p>DSD has recently submitted a detailed business case for Streets Ahead Phase 3 which has to be signed off by the DSD and DFP economists together with the DSD and DFP Ministers. To assist this process the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22 January, confirmed its commitment to the redevelopment of the Cathedral Gardens and agreed in principle to commit up to a maximum of £5million contribution towards the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens as part of the wider scheme. This funding would be subject to final confirmation of costs and affordability considerations.</p>

	Purpose Built Student Accommodation
3.7	Correspondence has been received from Queen's University Belfast seeking an opportunity to brief the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on the University's Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation at the Elms Village. QUB would also intend to update the Committee on the current and future plans in relation to capital investment within the City.
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None.