



<b>Subject:</b>	City Infrastructure Plan
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 10 August 2016
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive & Dir of Finance & Resources Nuala Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report seeks approval to commission specialist support to develop a technical specification for the creation of a Strategic Infrastructure Plan for Belfast City-Region which will identify and prioritise future investment needs in key physical city infrastructure.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agree that specialist support be secured to assist the Council to develop a technical specification for the commissioning of a Strategic Infrastructure Plan for Belfast City-Region;</li><li>• Note that a further report will be brought back to Committee in due course setting out a costed proposal for the commission of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Infrastructure planning is a key element of creating sustainable communities and city centre, ensuring that appropriate provision is made for transport, communication and utilities networks, important community resources, tourism and business growth. It is also critical in supporting the continued growth of the Belfast City-Region, accommodating future development potential and realising the city's aspirations.
3.2	The term infrastructure has a very wide meaning and relates to all facilities and services which

are necessary for successful communities and the city to function and compete. For the purposes of this work, it is suggested that the focus is 'physical city infrastructure' (e.g. transport; utilities including water, waste, flooding and energy; informational technology, telecommunications and digital provision; physical development schemes, environmental including open space/public realm etc). The actual scope of the Infrastructure Plan will be further defined as part of the detailed specification taking account of the linkages and synergies with the Local Development Plan.

3.3 There have already been numerous assessments undertaken around specific infrastructure needs within the City (e.g. Living with Water Programme) albeit there has not as yet been a supporting financial strategy put in place to deliver what is required. It is therefore intended that the proposed Infrastructure Plan will capture the work undertaken to date and seek to take a holistic assessment of what may be required over the next 10-20 years in the context of current pressures and future city growth aspirations. It will also set out planned investment proposals. A key element of the Infrastructure Plan will be deliverability. The infrastructure plan should identify as far as possible:

- (i) Infrastructure needs and costs
- (ii) Phasing of development
- (iii) Responsibilities for delivery

3.4 The Director of Finance is also seeking permission at the August meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to commission a specific piece of work in relation to the financing of city infrastructure projects which will sit alongside and reinforce the deliverability of the Infrastructure Plan.

3.5 It is important to recognise the significance of developing a robust infrastructure plan for the city in terms of complementing and supporting the soundness of the emerging Local Development Plan. The importance of such an approach has already been demonstrated in other cities including Cardiff, Manchester, Leeds, and London in terms of ensuring that infrastructure planning and investment aligned with predicted levels and locations of growth.

3.6 It is not the intention to create a freestanding Infrastructure Plan which duplicates the function of existing organisations or plans, and which infrastructure providers would not be bound to deliver. Instead, it is a mechanism to ensure infrastructure providers – individually and collectively – are planning for broadly the correct level of future development. It is important that mechanisms are in place to ensure that good communication and engagement takes place between developers,

	NI Executive and Department for Infrastructure, the Council and funding partners to discuss the development of strategic sites.
3.7	As part of the pending series of meetings between a Council deputation and the new NI Executive Ministers, the Council will seek to secure the involvement of the new Department for Infrastructure in taking forward this work given their statutory remit for delivering key city infrastructure. It will also be important that engagement takes place with the private sector and key utility providers.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.8	The initial scoping work to develop a specification will be funded through the existing City Centre Development budget. On completion of this work, a costed proposal for the actual commissioning of the Infrastructure Plan will be brought back to Committee for consideration and approval.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.9	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None