



Subject:	Public consultation on the revised Belfast Agenda
Date:	18 November 2016
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
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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
1.1	To present to Members a revised draft of the city's first community plan – the 'Belfast Agenda' – as the basis for a twelve-week public consultation on the plan.
1.2	The paper describes the main structure of the document which has been amended following discussion by Members at the all-Member workshop on 28 October and sets out the main elements of the public consultation programme.
1.3	Following consultation it is expected that the final draft of the Agenda will be agreed by Council and community planning partners in April 2017 with the first four year programme of work beginning in the Spring.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree the content of the revised Belfast Agenda as a basis for the public consultation and the production of further communication materials, including a summary version;• Note the proposed consultation process and timings.

3.0	Main report
3.1	The attached Belfast Agenda is the product of two years of work by Members, community planning partners, and a citywide public engagement programme, the ‘Belfast Conversation’.
3.2	The Agenda includes the latest amendments proposed at the October Members workshop and a number of revisions suggested by community planning partners. These revisions reflect Members’ requests for a clearer explanation of the inclusive growth model and how it can ensure that economic growth can be better harnessed by the city to address the inter-locking issues of poverty, economic inactivity and unemployment. There were also requests for a stronger emphasis on sustainable development and the need to address and adapt to climate change.
3.3	While the Council is the lead partner in the development of the plan, Members should note that it is a shared document that represents a set of agreements by city partners about a common vision of the city; shared priorities; and consensus on the necessary work streams that are required to address those priorities.
	The structure of the Agenda
3.4	As with the Programme for Government, the design and structure of the Belfast Agenda has been shaped by an outcomes-based approach. While the document can appear quite lengthy and technical, it does set out on in a structured and quite practical way, what we are required to do by the community planning legislation and statutory guidance.
3.5	<p>The Agenda sets out a number of elements:</p> <p>(i) A vision for 2035 – An aspirational description of Belfast in 2035 which we want partners and residents to identify with and work together to achieve.</p> <p>(ii) A set of outcomes for 2035 – these five statements describe the detail of the vision - specifically what we want for the people who live and work in Belfast. These statements represent the aspirational views of the many residents and organisations we engaged with on the Belfast Conversation.</p> <p>(iii) Population indicators - For each outcome statement, partners have agreed a basket of ‘bellwether’ indicators. Taken together these indicators will give a strong sense</p>

of the city's direction of travel over the coming years. They will provide Members with a powerful tool to help them determine whether the Belfast Agenda is having a positive impact over the longer term.

(iii) Medium term priorities– The vision and outcomes are long-term, but partners have identified a number of medium term priorities that the city needs to act on soon in order to build momentum and bring about change. In the Agenda these priorities are grouped under four pillars: Growing the economy; Living here; City Development; and Working and learning. For each of these pillars partners have sought agreement on two main things:

- **Stretch goals:** These will help quantify what the city needs to achieve for each priority over the next four years whilst offering a basis for accountability to Members, residents and partners.
- **Work-streams:** These are the 'game-changing' pieces of work that need to be planned and delivered by city partners over the next four year

3.6 A number of supporting materials are being developed to complement what Members have noted is a lengthy and technical document. This will include a user-friendly summary version of the Agenda; which will be of particular use in the public consultation process and in supporting Members in engagement with their constituents and other stakeholders.

3.7 There will also be a statistical baselining document that sets out the evidence supporting the priorities and work-streams. In addition, partners have agreed to develop a city 'dashboard' that will allow Members, partners and residents to track progress on the goals and indicators.

3.8 As noted in the document, the work-streams represent an ambitious body of work that will require the active, co-ordinated participation of many organisations and individuals across many sectors. There is substantial enabling work to be done by all partners to make the Agenda a reality. In particular Members have noted that the Agenda will have significant implications for the Council's new corporate plan. The implications for council service planning, resourcing will be brought to future meetings of Committee. A future meeting will also consider the wider governance implications for the delivery of the Agenda.

3.9	<p>Public consultation</p> <p>The twelve week public consultation will allow residents and other stakeholders to further improve and refine the framework in advance of its adoption and publication in Spring 2017.</p>
3.10	<p>As previously discussed with Members it is proposed that consultation will commence in early December 2016 and that members will play a leading role throughout the process. Key elements will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement within Council – An opportunity for Members to work with officers to refine the document. This will include further party briefings and member workshops. - Consultation Launch – A launch event is proposed for early December to which key stakeholders and members of the media will be invited. This will be led by the Lord Mayor, the Party Group Leaders, the Chief Executive and a number of the partners who developed the Belfast Agenda. - Area Briefing events (N, S, E & W)- Members have already agreed that local engagement events should be held in January to highlight investment in local areas in January. It is proposed that these events also be used as an opportunity to engage about the Belfast Agenda. This would allow the proposals in the Belfast Agenda to be effectively rooted in messages about delivery. The sessions would also include information on Local Development Plan (LDP) and Preferred Option Paper consultation. In this way local communities can get a coherent and joined up message about the key strategies the council is taking forward. Members have noted that a focus on the “Living Here” priorities would be of particular relevance for the area briefings. - Online consultation questionnaire - Through the Council’s consultation portal, ‘citizen space’ - stakeholders and communities will be encouraged to provide their feedback and comments. - Consultation workshop events- Facilitated discussion with key stakeholders and partners, including targeted engagement with the voluntary and community Sectors, around key themes and interests - Bespoke engagement activity with key partners and Section 75 groupings as required. - Video – to support the engagement process a video will be produced featuring

	<p>party group leaders and community planning partners, explaining the Belfast Agenda and setting out how people can engage. This will be available on-line and can be used by partners and stakeholders in order to avail of as many engagement opportunities as possible.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>This consultation programme is included within current Council resources. Given the significant workload associated with supporting delivery of the Belfast Agenda consideration is being given, as part of the ongoing organisational development programme and revenue estimates process to the necessary alignment and organisation of staff and resources to ensure effective delivery.</p>
3.12	<p>A Strategic Environmental Assessment is being completed and will form part of the consultation on the Belfast Agenda. The Strategic Environmental Assessment is intended to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in the development of the plan.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Equality screening of all elements of the Belfast Agenda will be undertaken in line with Council policy as well as a screening and assessment of the overall document at a strategic level. This information will be made available as part of the consultation on the document. On-going assessment will be informed by consultation feedback, including a specific session with the Council's established Section 75 Consultative Forum.</p> <p>Good Relations and equality are among the underpinning values of the Belfast Agenda, underlining the Council's commitment to delivering on these vital outcomes for Belfast across all projects and actions.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1: Draft Belfast Agenda document