



<b>Subject:</b>	<i>Building Successful Communities - Divis Back Path</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> November 2017</i>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<i>Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department</i>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<i>Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme Manager</i>

<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 or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the proposals under the Building Successful Programme and to seek comment from Members relating to the proposed design and to take direction regarding the future management model and its resourcing.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that Members:  1. Note the attached drawings being brought forward to design stage; and 2. Agree that Officers engage with the Community and other partners regarding the resourcing of the facility post completion within the context of the ongoing work on Area Planning.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members are reminded that the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee (SP&R) considered a Report 'Transfer of Assets / Liabilities to Belfast City Council' in September and October 2016. The Report related to a number of capital investment proposals from Government Departments and sought approval from SP&R to the transfer of the assets to

the Council following completion and the associated management, maintenance and insurance liabilities. The report was first presented in September 2016 however SP&R, while noting its support for the capital investment proposed, agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable the Director of Property and Projects to hold further discussions with the Department for Communities and the Executive Office on the ongoing revenue implications and the conditions under which the Council would accept the transfer of assets. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting in October 2016 agreed in principle to accept the transfer of the assets and the associated liability subject to certain conditions being met including securing a minimum of 3 years maintenance from DfC.

3.2 Included within the general consent are two projects under Building Successful Communities, the proposals relate to regeneration projects in the Divis and Lower Shankill areas. This report specifically deals with the proposal relating to the Divis Back Path, however members are asked to be aware that this project is linked with a similar proposal, the Bullring, which runs from the Shankill Road to Clifton Street, design work on this project is continuing.

3.3 A copy of the proposed concept plan options is attached as Appendix A. The options are quite similar and Council Officers have been involved in discussions regarding the plans. The design is somewhat innovative and is not something that Council would normally provide, it incorporates a significant sports area to provide for sprinting, 'bag' workouts among other items of equipment. The proposal emerged following a consultation exercise undertaken on behalf of Department for Communities.

3.4 In line with the conditions of the approval from SP&R Council Officers are satisfied that a maintenance regime can be put in place to undertake routine inspection of the facility, open and close it and undertake general routine operational maintenance of the facility. The Department has agreed to provide a minimum of 3 years maintenance cost, outside of any defects liability period. The facility once completed will be included on Council's Insurance schedule.

3.5 The Committee is asked to note the attached concept plans with the understanding that more detailed designs will be developed and a planning application submitted. The Department has indicated that it is under financial pressures to incur spend by the end of March 2018. Members are asked to note the reference in the drawings to a memorial garden. At this time there is no firm proposal as to the nature of this memorial, however

our understanding is that it is a memorial to victims of suicide.

**Future management**

- 3.6 The Council has agreed to the transfer of the asset and assumption of ownership, subject to conditions being met. The area to be regenerated has been a vacant site for a significant period of time and has a history of anti-social behaviour and criminality attached to it.
- 3.7 There is concern within the Council, the Department and the local community that there is a risk that given the history, the new facility could be under used and potentially subject to abuse and vandalism. It is our understanding that the Community is open to a conversation regarding involvement in the future management of the asset. At this stage no detailed discussions have been had to firm up on proposals.
- 3.8 Members are asked to be aware that the facility could support casual and programmed use. The latter could be facilitated within the community, however, preliminary indications suggest that there would be a lack of capacity (resources) within the community to take on additional responsibilities.
- 3.9 Members will be aware that The Belfast Agenda sets out the joint vision and long-term ambitions for Belfast's future. One of the key priorities is "living here" with a key work stream to "Design an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and maximise the impact of local assets and investment".
- 3.10 Despite the capital and revenue investment in local areas across Belfast there are instances when the potential benefits of the assets are not being wholly realised. The community planning process has provided an opportunity to integrate programmes and services at an area level to improve outcomes.
- 3.11 It is our intention to use the opportunities presented by current and planned investment in specific areas. These can help us in developing and evolving an area planning model for delivering against the priorities identified in the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.12 One such example is the Peace IV funding opportunity, further details on these opportunities are included in a report being presented to members on area planning, however the Building Successful Communities initiative also presents an opportunity and it is proposed that we use this investment to help develop the area planning approach.

3.13	<p>A more detailed report was presented to the SP&amp;R Committee in October 17 and is attached as Appendix B for information.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>  Capital Investment agreed as per SP&amp;R decision October 2016. Further clarification on revenue implications to be established.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>  Development of the asset will regenerate the local area and its connectivity to area plans.</p>
	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix A – Concept drawings relating to the Divis Back Path Proposal</p> <p>Appendix B – Report to Strategic Policy and Resources – October 2017</p>