

Appendix 2 – BCCM’s Role and assessment of potential impact for Belfast City Council (based on current business plan structure)

BCCM’s current role	Impact on Belfast City Council/issues for consideration
Economic Performance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCCM provides research information on Belfast’s economic performance. Data includes: retail footfall trends; Retail Sales Trends; Vacant Property (Ground Floor); Health check and benchmarking; Traffic surveys; Parades & Protests Impact Analysis; and Post Event Impact Reports (major events). - Some post-event reviews are undertaken (e.g. Orangefest) although this tends to be based on available funding e.g. DfC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sample size, methodology and sectoral assessment of BCCM’s research is limited. There are now more reliable research sources to which the Council and partners have access e.g. footfall data captured by BID One, SMART Cities, information from the City Centre wi-fi provision and research commissioned by the City Centre Development Team. - Impact on Belfast City Council if current research provision stops is considered minimal - May commission BCCM for specific engagement to inform qualitative impact of projects in future (subject to normal procurement processes).
Public Space Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCCM is responsible for the management of the masts in Donegall Place - Other work involves activities to maintain public realm such as <i>liaison with</i> the Council’s Cleansing Services on street cleansing; and with DfC re DfC-owned public space, infrastructure and property; and DfI on H&S hazards and lighting issues etc. Remit for these partners includes weekly quality inspections of and reports on public realm and reporting of any issues negatively impacting the City Centre such as vandalism, graffiti and fly posting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common issues relate primarily to waste (e.g. number/state of bins, collection times, concerns around vermin). If BCCM ceases to exist as an interface, these issues will remain. The vehicle for lobbying for change may shift to BIDs or directly to the Council. As part of our initiative to make Belfast more Business Friendly we are adopting a client-centred approach and ultimately reducing clients having to be referred through intermediaries. The Council will communicate direct contact details for lead officers responsible for city centre collections etc. and share details with the BIDs, BCTC and promote via <i>Belfast: City for Business</i> web page. - DfC are proposing to maintain funding at the existing level for BCCM 2018/19 which will mean no negative impact on public space management. It is assumed that they will still have to ensure delivery of this function after the 2018/19 financial year and will do so through an appropriate procurement route. - No significant direct impact on Council if BCCM does not carry out this work.
Christmas Lights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCCM delivers the Christmas Lighting programme across the City Centre on an annual basis. This involves overseeing the installation of 340 decorations in 51 streets. - The lights are currently listed on BCCM’s asset register at a value of £50,000. In total, £340,000 capital investment has been made in the lights since 2006. Funding has come from BCC, DfC, DFI, BCTC and other private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently low-risk approach for Council for BCCM to manage Christmas lighting. Christmas lighting needs refreshed because of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality, attractiveness and efficiency of existing lighting – has not been fully replaced for more than a decade; • Need to ensure alignment with new City Brand; • Changing City landscape requires audit of locations where it is

<p>- Some BIDs may be interested in working with partners to ensure the installation of new/additional lighting from next year. Also interest from Councillors to ensure additional lighting in some streets (e.g. Castle Street).</p>	<p>installed – there are gaps in some parts of the City Centre;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing way in which cities and destinations procure Christmas lights. There is now a tendency to lease rather than purchase lights. It will be important to look at all options in significant detail in advance of any new investment decisions; • Increased interest from BIDs and other private sector partners to ensure appropriate levels of festive lighting (in terms of both volume and quality). This may present an opportunity to secure additional resources from partners towards any new investment. <p>- A change in approach will require Officers to work through options (with partners) including purchase/lease of new lights (and possible inclusion of city branding).</p> <p>- Will require a phased approach, particularly if new lighting stock needs to be commissioned. In order to ensure that there is lighting provision in place for Christmas 2018, it may be appropriate to contract BCCM to oversee the installation of the existing stock, if new arrangements cannot be approved and commissioned in time.</p> <p>- Proposed next step: options paper to be considered by PMU/Procurement to define/agree preferred approach for Council investment. Following this, need for early engagement with partners (BCC, BCTC, BCCM, BIDs, DfC).</p>
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Safer City

<p><u>Retail Crimewatch (RCW)</u></p> <p>- This is a partnership between BCCM, the PSNI and Retail Crimewatch members</p> <p><u>City Centre Beat/other public safety initiatives</u></p> <p>- BCCM is contracted until March 2021 to deliver City Centre Beat Initiative on behalf of Belfast One via an SLA with PSNI. BCCM is currently negotiating a future SLA with Belfast Two.</p> <p>- BCCM also delivers other crime reduction initiatives such as: Body Worn Cameras, the On-street Drinking Project, Night-time Volunteer Group and Emergency Contact Points scheme.</p> <p>BCCM has over 2,000 business city centre contacts on its database and approx. 800 contact mobile numbers of key holders / managers on its Text Alert System.</p>	<p>Council does not directly fund the delivery of these services: they are provided primarily through other stakeholder funding. This may be one service that the BCCM Board wish to commercialise further. RCW contributes to perceptions of the City Centre as a safe place to shop.</p> <p>A future collaborative approach under the auspices of the Belfast Agenda will continue with co-ordination across the Council's Services and forums such as PCSP. Council staff on Safer Cities and City Centre Regeneration team will be a key liaison point. Depending on the issues arising there may be a need to bring in an independent convenor such as BCCM on a project-based commission (rather than it being a core funded activity). Co-ordinating some of this activity via the BIDs will allow interventions to directly address very localised issues.</p> <p>In readiness for GDPR, all Councils services are cleansing databases, including business databases. BCCM is potentially considering the commercialisation of their alert service and should Council wish to avail of this service in future it will be at our discretion to use the service, subject to relevant assurances around all necessary compliance checks being in place.</p>
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