

Appendix 1 - Summary Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study Recommendations Progress

Recommended Action	Supporting Actions for Delivery	Current Position
Making Belfast a destination of choice for students	Develop a single coherent strategy for student housing as part of a strategy for housing in Belfast.	Council developed a Framework for Student Housing in the city in 2014, which has been incorporated into Supplementary Planning Guidance. The Supplementary Planning Guidance sets the strategic context and agenda for student housing in the city, articulating the need for more purpose built student accommodation and will monitor and maintain an up to date assessment of current supply and future demand for student accommodation.
	Identify appropriate locations, innovative arrangements and measures to attract alternative funding for housing students in the city.	Supplementary Planning Guidance sets the strategic context and agenda for student housing in the city. Council continues to work with partners to assess the viability of purpose built student accommodation and requirements and options for public sector to support delivery.
	Prepare guidance on a planning policy framework in respect of shared housing and flat conversions.	The Local Development Plan sets the strategic context and agenda for student housing in the city. A report on Preferred Options Paper consultation was published on 26 July 2017 and work is on-going to finalise detailed policies on the Plan / Strategy for publication in Autumn 2018.
	Develop an accreditation scheme for student housing.	The HMO function remains on target to transfer to Councils in April 2019. The secondary legislation and regulations associated with this transfer will include accreditation

		requirements in relation to purpose built student accommodation.
Restoring the functional integrity of the Holyland	Introduce a “New homes from old places” initiative.	The then ‘DSD’ now DFC was approached to consider the potential for implementing recommendations in relation to introducing a ‘new homes from old places’ initiative in the area, namely to identify a housing association that would acquire properties and make these available to single households. DSD advised that this was not a feasible option due to lack of demand from potential tenants, and the high costs of acquiring/converting properties (which have historically received public sector funding in the form of HMO grants). Through the Local Development Plan’s strategic theme of “shaping a liveable place” development to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities, neighbourhoods and place will be promoted. Furthermore, the Belfast Agenda’s strategic priority “living here” focuses on making life better for all our residents.
	Introduce a new regime – a neighbourhood management initiative.	Council worked with the former Holyland Interagency Group to review the PACT structure and implement a new neighbourhood management approach for the area. A revised PACT structure was agreed and has been in operation since 2014. The Learning City Interagency Group continues to work closely with PACT.

	<p>Develop an integrated plan for transport and traffic management.</p>	<p>Council has been working with the Department for Infrastructure to develop and implement a car parking strategy for Belfast. The first Residents' Parking Scheme to be introduced in Northern Ireland was implemented in an area of South Belfast in April 2018. The Department for Infrastructure initiative has created controlled parking zones for residents and business owners in the Rugby Road and College Park Avenue area.</p>
	<p>Introduce a programme of environmental improvements to enhance the public realm.</p>	<p>Through the Learning City Interagency Group, a programme of environmental improvement projects has been delivered to restore the physical and social integrity of the wider university area and enhance the public realm. Full details of the programme have been included in Appendices 3 and 4 of this report.</p>
	<p>Improve safety in the area.</p>	<p>A Safer Neighbourhood Officer team has been established, comprising 8 Safer Neighbourhood Officers in total deployed by the DPCSPs (2 each) to North, South, East and West areas of the city. The Safer Neighbourhood Officers undertake the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with locally elected representatives to resolve local problems; • Joint enforcement of on-street drinking on Friday and Saturday nights or at key public events as required;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for on street enforcement (clean neighbourhoods);• Providing assistance to residents and community organisations; and• Linking in with existing structures to support local engagement. <p>Deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Officers is also targeted to the Wider University Area at key times of the year including the Freshers period, Halloween and St Patrick's day.</p> <p>Multiagency advance activity planning around key dates and events across the city has been developed. This robust planning process supports effective operational management of city wide events and assists in addressing community safety issues including on street drinking, noise, antisocial behaviour and litter.</p>
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