



Subject:	Designing Streets for Children
Date:	13 February 2019
Reporting Officer:	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Interim Lead City Centre Development

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	As part of its global 100 Resilient Cities work, Belfast has been encouraged to apply for the 'Streets for Kids Programme', an initiative of the US National Association of City Transportation Officials' Global Designing Cities Initiative (NACTO-GDCI)
1.2	Streets for Kids is a multi-year programme to develop new technical guidance and advance street designs that create safe public spaces for children of all ages and abilities to learn, play, and move around a city. The program funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Fondation Botnar, and the FIA Foundation.

1.3	If successful in applying to join the programme, the city of Belfast would be eligible for training and technical assistance in design of urban spaces for children
1.4	The programme application is timely as we develop our Resilience Strategy and examine ways to reduce our exposure to city shocks and stresses. An emerging theme in our early engagement is the importance of designing a city that supports a positive childhood for all children.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Belfast City Council's application to the 'Streets for Kids' programme.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	As a member of 100RC, the Resilient Belfast team has identified a possible opportunity for Belfast to avail of specialist support through the US National Association of City Transportation Officials' Global Designing Cities Initiative (NACTO-GDCI). Aware of the current pressures facing Belfast city centre, and the work of strategic city partners Arup on 'urban childhoods', 100RC has identified this programme of support to aid our city regeneration priorities.
3.2	Members will be aware of the ongoing work to revitalize the city centre and the opportunity to rethink how best this shared space is used. Work carried out by Arup to date suggests that urban amenities that support healthy child development also contribute to public health through cleaner air, improved mobility, inclusive communities, fighting climate change and urban loneliness. As part of their work on urban childhoods Arup, our strategic partner, are working with the Commissioner for Resilience to host an event later this year to connect, share and create ideas to support early childhood in urban settings, with city leaders, development partners, designers, engineers and innovators.
3.3	The goals of the Streets for Kids programme are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalyze the implementation of street designs that support sustainable mobility choices and advance the well-being of children and their caregivers • Provide child-focused design guidance

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build local capacity through trainings and give participants an expanded toolkit to create streets that are safe, enjoyable, and inspirational • Support demonstration projects that have the potential to inspire large-scale change <p>From 2019 to 2021, NACTO-GDCI will work directly with cities to reimagine and redesign their streets to support comfortable, healthy, and inspiring environments for all children. Eight cities selected for the training will receive a one- to two-day facilitated training from NACTO-GDCI staff in 2019/2020 which 30 to 60 local participants will be able to attend. Four cities will then receive, in addition to the training, more in-depth technical assistance and design support from NACTO-GDCI staff and matching funds for project implementation.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Each city that becomes part of the Streets for Kids program must commit local staff time to participate in the program and coordinate with NACTO-GDCI staff. No further resources are required.</p>
3.6	<p>Later in the programme, there is also the potential for BCC to apply to partner with NACTO-GDCI to design and deliver a demonstration project. NACTO-GDCI would provide matching funds for project implementation with an estimated value of maximum \$20,000. Should we wish to apply for this aspect of the programme, which would entail commitment of financial resources, we will return to committee to formally seek approval in due course.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None