



Subject:	Innovation and Growth Commission
Date:	5th June, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
Contact Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To note approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 22nd March for the establishment of an action-oriented Commission, for one year, to create a step change in driving innovation and growth, by integrating major strategic programmes ongoing across the city. The purpose of the Commission is to support the Council in the further development and implementation of its priorities as set out in the Belfast Agenda. A particular focus will be given to the priorities of (1) growing a resilient economy and (2) city development through innovation. The Commission will seek to deliver the core objective of inclusive growth.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Innovation and Growth Commission will be established to integrate and join up major strategic projects facing the city of Belfast for the next 10-20 years; • the establishment of a Commission will inform the development of the ‘next phase’ of growth required to meet the city’s ambitions in Belfast Agenda- i.e. 2021 and beyond; and • officers will now be working on approaching potential experts to sit on the Commission and will start to develop a draft programme of work for approval by the committee in August.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The establishment of a Commission will inform the development of the ‘next phase’ of growth required to meet members’ ambitions in the Belfast Agenda - i.e. 2021 and beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that major programmes are integrated and joined up, i.e. economic growth must also be sustainable - that resilience is built-in; so we are better able to withstand shocks and stresses, and by reducing risk make Belfast increasingly attractive to investment - that economic growth is inclusive - the benefits are felt by all - that opportunities to fund and accelerate this growth are identified and realised - that NI Civil Service / NI government / Invest NI/anchor institutions are aligned to the plans developed - that a strong ongoing relationship is built with the private sector <p>Key outcomes from the Commission’s work:</p>
3.2	<p>The Commission will be an advisory body to members, to help delivery of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring clarity on the delivery priorities in the Innovation and Digital Investment Pillar of the City Deal. Projects should be investment ready. 2. Investors identified and in place for the additional £500m for the City Deal 3. A Resilience Strategy to develop the city’s adaptability to future challenges. 4. A joined up land use plan to accelerate growth 5. An energy transition plan for Belfast – produced in partnership with external institutions – supported by Smart Cities team and BCC energy team and sustainable development team 6. Propositions for an Urban Resilient Fund (bring challenge to the process)-

	<p>again, in partnership with others e.g. Belfast Harbour, DFI</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Investment prospectus for a Belfast- Dublin Economic Corridor 8. Options paper for new forms of finance for the city- long term 9. Drive 'green infrastructure' network across the city- securing finance, community engagement/management/ownership etc. 10. Clarity on our long term infrastructure needs and financial models
3.3	<p>Belfast City Council's Chief Executive will chair the Commission and lead its work. The Chief Executive will be accountable to both the Strategic Policy and Resources and City Growth and Regeneration committees for ensuring the Commission meets its goals and works within its terms of reference. The Commission will engage regularly with this Committee and provide substantive progress reports.</p>
3.4	<p>Membership of the Commission will have at its core members of the current Belfast Economic Forum and will be added to by invited experts in key areas of City Development, economic policy and inclusive growth.</p>
3.5	<p>Accountability for day-to-day operation of the Commission (SRO) will rest with the Commissioner for Resilience, who will be tasked with advising and supporting the commission, identifying resources (including from 100 Resilient Cities) and producing final outputs, as part of her requirement to produce a Resilience Strategy for the city.</p>
3.6	<p>The Commissioner for Resilience will work alongside the Director of City and Organisational Strategy and the Strategic Director of Place and Economy to ensure that the effective support is in place to support the Commission and its workstreams, provide research and ensure linkages with Community Planning and the City Deal.</p>
3.7	<p>A further detailed paper will be brought to the SP&R Committee in August and the CGR Committee in September outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership and Terms of Reference for the Commission - Fully Costed indicative Programme of Work - Timelines and Milestones
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>There are no current financial implications however a further detailed paper will be brought to SP&R outlining a fully costed indicative Programme of Work</p>

3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Documents Attached
	S P&R Report of 22nd March, 2019