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| Subject: | Feasibility of funding for Cloth Nappy Scheme |
| Date: | 8 th October 2019 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services |
| Contact Officer: | Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager |

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| 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"/> |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | At Committee on 6 August 2019, Committee agreed that officers would submit a report to a future meeting which would consider the feasibility of the Council providing one additional cloth nappy kit for use by Belfast City Council ratepayers. |
| 1.2 | This report outlines the options available to council to facilitate this request in order to address the current eight week waiting list to access the service within Belfast. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approve the establishment of a supplementary agreement with the existing service provider, which will allow the Council to supply an additional cloth nappy kit to the company to be used solely for the benefit of Belfast residents. |

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| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <p data-bbox="272 226 421 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 293 1445 421">3.1 The Council has been funding a cloth nappy scheme for four years allowing parents the opportunity to trial the use of cloth nappies and then provide a refund scheme should they wish to continue once the trial has finished.</p> <p data-bbox="165 495 975 524">3.2 The scheme is a two stage process as outlined below</p> <ul data-bbox="325 598 1465 1032" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="325 598 1465 725">• Stage 1- parents contact the council expressing a desire to trial cloth nappies. The Councils' service provider will provide a free trial pack to the family (valued at £32). The Council pays this money directly to the service provider. <li data-bbox="325 799 1465 1032">• Stage 2 – After trialling the nappies, should the family wish to continue with the their use, they can receive a £30 refund insofar as they can prove they have spent over £50 on purchasing cloth nappies, normally by supplying an invoice to the council for verification. It is possible for families to avail of the £30 refund without having to have gone through stage 1. <p data-bbox="165 1106 1445 1234">3.3 The scheme has proved very popular which has resulted in Belfast families having to wait between eight to ten weeks to access the trial outlined in stage 1 and the offer is limited to one child per household.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1285 1430 1518">3.4 Members requested that Officers would explore ways to reduce the waiting times by purchasing an additional trial pack and this has been discussed with the service provider and Council Legal Services. Following the free trial, each kit is returned and reissued to another family, having an additional kit in circulation would therefore alleviate the waiting times.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1570 1453 1756">3.5 It is therefore recommended that a supplementary agreement is put in place with the service provider would include a clause stating that if the council provides direct support in the form of additional Nappy Trial Kit (estimated value £400 per kit) that this should be used exclusively for the benefit of Belfast families.</p> |

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| 3.6 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The provision of a trial nappy kit would cost approximately £400. This would be additional to the year running cost of £3,000 for the maintenance of the Cloth Nappy Scheme.</p> |
| 3.7 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations or rural need implication in the provision of the service.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None</p> |