

APPENDIX 3 Collated member Feedback: People and Communities – Committee Planning 10 September 2019

Member	Comments
Cllr Baker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen to look at closer working with Planning to ensure decisions are taken with consideration given to green/renewable energy, emissions and environmental factors. Council have target to use electric vehicles for waste collection by 2030 but do we have the infrastructure eg charge points? Targets for waste but also for other areas
Cllr Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested a comprehensive review of existing physical infrastructure of independent centres to ensure facilities are used and funds are allocated appropriately – eg installation of footfall monitoring systems at BCC centres to monitor usage/review funding if centres are not used to their potential. Facilities Management Agreements – should include repair responsibilities Review new IFA legislation given the sizeable impact on BCC facilities especially upgrade of pitches Enhance environmental improvements by adapting/futureproofing BCC facilities and resources Although funding programmes need to be open and transparent it would be useful to also have fluidity to ensure provision for new and emerging issues in the current Committee/Council term Ring-fencing Neighbourhood Renewal funding for areas of deprivation Not forcing change to meet a centrally driven theme when local groups and projects are working well Community planning should be needs-led and not centrally driven Tender management – mitigate risk of losing quality local providers and support for smaller groups
Cllr Cobain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental issues, including fleet management as a significant strain on BCC budgets – suggested consideration is given to looking at rate relief. Rates may need to rise however important to ‘sell’ anticipated improvements to ratepayers. Important to set targets regarding energy that is not dependent on fossil fuels but yet is affordable.
Cllr Corr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognised climate as a priority in this council term. Outlined concerns regarding bureaucracy and numerous plans which don’t appear to achieve measured outcomes Suggested that there is a lack of understanding of the importance of the Belfast Agenda and that Members need to have a better understanding of the plan and increased awareness of outcomes in order to align priorities eg. proactively working to address health inequalities. AWGs could lack effectiveness without money available for capital builds/projects but need to focus on outcomes Closer alignment with government departments is required – many Notices of Motion do not fall within the remit of the Council, but in the absence of the NI Assembly, Council is the only forum to move these issues forward at present Suggested increased involvement for Members in setting priorities aligned to the Belfast Agenda. Focus on regeneration in collaboration with communities, not ‘to communities’ as will not work

Cllr Verner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that BCC cannot carry sole responsibility for all issues in regard to improving the quality of life for citizens, but BCC should be working with others to lead on the needs of its people • Community Planning is hugely important– everyone has a role to play in achieving good quality of life for all; working with the Departments as have identified outcomes. • CNS Transition and Improvement Plan – significant change and risk of front line staff feeling discontent/undervalued – important to manage this carefully.
Cllr Kyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding Neighbourhood Renewal – hugely important for communities and serious difficulties could arise in the absence of funding. Brexit also poses risks for poorer communities. • Recognised positive work undertaken by BCC community centres and the significant increase in the use of parks and green spaces eg fun days, park runs etc – need to ensure this good work continues ensuring the greening and wilding of the city – Belfast benefits from being a greener city. • Suggested merit in the production of an Anti-Poverty Strategy
Cllr Magee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested a review of shared contracts with DRD, DfI, Housing Executive etc – cited an example in the New Lodge (Victoria Barracks) where three agencies clean one small piece of ground which is an obvious and unnecessary duplication of efforts and increases the carbon footprint. Are there opportunities for cost saving? Can staff be encouraged to come up with ideas? For example, is there an opportunity to have street cleaners spray weeds etc if appropriate equipment was provided? • Recycling facilities – suggested longer opening hours to facilitate daytime/weekend workers, and encouraging yard operatives to provide more assistance in terms of recycling advice to encourage customers to increase their recycling.
Cllr McLaughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that an inclusive health strategy targeting areas of deprivation is required to improve quality of life and address health inequalities– new centres alone are not enough, as no measure of how health has improved for those in that area. BCC need to work closely with others to address these issues. • Consideration required when allocating funding to disability groups as associated costs (transport, suitable facilities) etc can be substantially higher
Cllr de Faoite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echoed Cllr Cobain’s concerns in relation to mitigating climate crisis cost impacts – suggested sustainability impact assessments should form part of any Committee reports and decision making process on these issues going forward identifying cost implications. • Suggested Climate Crisis minutes are presented to P&C Committee on a monthly basis as well as to SP&R Committee • Provision of adequate services for both children & young people, and the elderly should be priorities going forward – making Belfast a CYP-friendly city (linked to proposed Resilience Strategy) • Outlined concerns regarding cemeteries and crematorium use - limited spaces and facilities available. • Echoed Cllr Kyle’s suggestion for an Anti-Poverty Strategy • Concerns re impact of large numbers of HMOs in South and East Belfast – BCC need to support these communities, and mitigate the impact of the Ulster University on the North and West of the city. BCC should strive to ensure development is mixed to provide best outcomes and avoid a duplication of the issues caused by HMOs in the Holylands.