



Subject:	QUB Collaborative Studentships 2020
Date:	24 th April 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy & Partnerships Manager Gareth Downey, Researcher

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
1.1	This report is inform Members of the recent awarding of a three-year Phd researcher to support the work of the collaborative BCC-QUB project to establishing and promoting a culture of applying geospatial analysis within the Council, as well as community planning partners, as a means of supporting effective area-based decision-making and problem solving.
1.2	Note that this work and the expertise of the PHD student and our collaborative relationship with QUB will be vital in supporting the Council, and our partners, as we seek to understand the extent of the crisis on communities throughout Belfast.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the awarding of a three-year Phd researcher within the Strategy, Policy & Partnership unit to support the work of the ongoing collaborative project [i.e. Geospatial Analysis) between staff from Queen's University Belfast (QUB), Centre for Geographic Information Sciences and Geomatics, and Belfast City Council (BCC) Strategic Hub].
3.0	Main Report
	<p>Key Issues</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>3.1 In February 2020 the Strategy, Policy & Partnerships team, in partnership with Professor Christopher Lloyd at the School of Natural and Built Environment, were successful in applying for a full-time Phd researcher as part of the Queen's University's (QUB) Collaborative Studentship scheme.</p> <p>3.2 Scheduled to begin in October 2020, and will be in place for three years, the Phd researcher will support the work of the Geospatial Analysis collaborative research project between the BCC and QUB in establishing and promoting a culture of applying geospatial analysis within the Council, as well as community planning partners, as a means of supporting effective area-based decision-making and problem solving.</p> <p>3.3 In parallel to this, the project will develop a dynamic and interactive online mapping system that enables those from all spheres of society, from key governmental decision-makers to the curious citizen, to be transformed from passive consumers of spatial data into active, informed and critical map users.</p> <p>3.4 Furthermore, this collaborative research aligns closely with the Councils ambition to develop area plans, as demonstrated through the Belfast Agenda and the recently reconvened Area Working Groups.</p> <p><u>Finance & Resources Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 This project is fully funded. As a non-profit organisation as well as the ongoing collaborative work with QUB through the Geospatial Analysis research project, the Council have no requirements to provide additional resources.</p> <p>3.6 As such, there are no immediate resource implications contained within this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.7 Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however, it is anticipated that any</p>

	collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on Section 75 groups. At project level, equality and rural needs assessment will be undertaken when developing projects.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Application ‘Embedding spatial data in local government using web-based geoportals: a case study of Belfast City Council’