



<b>Subject:</b>	QUB-BCC Agreement on Geospatial Analysis Research
<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval from the Committee for a proposed Agreement between Belfast City Council and Queen's University Belfast for the 'Geospatial Analysis and Area Working' project.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Approve the next phase of geospatial analysis work by Queen's University which will support the economic recovery work and the continued work to deliver the Belfast Agenda.</li></ul>
2.2	Note that both Council and Queen's legal teams have scrutinised and agreed the detailed Geospatial Research Agreement.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>3.1 SP&amp;R will be aware that since early 2019, colleagues (principally Professor Christopher Lloyd) from both the Centre for GIS and Geomatics (based in the School of Natural Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast [QUB]) and Belfast City Council [BCC] have been working together to establish and promote a culture of applying geospatial analysis within Council, as well as community planning partners, as a means of supporting effective area-based decision-making and problem solving.</p> <p>3.2 Discussion on the approach and the formal collaboration have taken place in a number of forums – including the joint BCC CMT and QUB Senior Leadership meetings, the Living Here Board and CPP meetings and with members at both the Area Working Groups and the Community Planning members working group.</p> <p>3.3 An initial output of this joint programme was the formation of a collaborative QUB-BCC Geospatial Working Group whose preliminary task was to develop a series of case studies, or Insight Pieces, as proof of concepts for this methodology. The five Insight Pieces examined the five policy areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drugs and alcohol;</li> <li>- Excess winter deaths;</li> <li>- Employability;</li> <li>- Inclusive growth; and</li> <li>- Leisure facilities and deprivation.</li> </ul> <p>3.4 A second output of this programme has been the development of an interactive online mapping system that will enable users to communicate, interact, engage, share and analyse across a variety of geographic levels and themes.</p> <p>3.5 Furthermore, this collaborative research aligns closely with the Council's ambition to develop area plans, as demonstrated through the Belfast Agenda and the recently reconvened Area Working Groups. This tool will support the council's ambition to tailor service delivery in line with need providing Council and its partner with a mechanism that allows our services and interventions to be both (i) designed at a city level, yet (ii) their delivery can be efficiently targeted in accordance with the evidence. This is particularly prescient as the city begins to emerge from a prolonged Covid-19 lockdown and the economic, social and health consequences of this health crisis come to bear.</p>

3.6	The presented proposed Agreement will enable Professor Chris Lloyd, and to a lesser extent a number of QUB colleagues within the Centre for Geomatics and GIS, to dedicate two years of their time to this collaborative programme, which will come into effect upon signing of the Agreement by both parties. This cross-sectoral agreement between QUB and Council will be the first of this nature in Northern Ireland (i.e. between local government and academia).
3.7	<p>The broad objectives of this research, as detailed in the attached Agreement, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Knowledge</b> – generate new insights to improve service and programme delivery.</li> <li>- <b>Infrastructure</b> – build, share and sustain high-quality infrastructure to enable geospatial research.</li> <li>- <b>Capacity</b> – support development of geospatial research capacity in Belfast City Council and elsewhere.</li> <li>- <b>Innovation</b> – promote translation of data insights into policy and practice.</li> <li>- <b>Communication</b> – communicate widely and openly about how geospatial research is contributing to effective service delivery.</li> </ul>
3.8	The Strategy Policy & Partnerships Team will work with SROs and departments to finalise the programme of work that will be delivered – this collaborative relationship is designed to ensure that it support the decision-making of the Council as required.
3.9	In addition, 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. 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. Detailed report on this is also on the agenda for Member’s consideration.
3.10	<p><u>Resources Implications</u></p> <p>The £40,000 budget for 2020-2021 is included in the City &amp; Organisational Strategy budget. Expenditure in future years will be subject to a review of year one performance.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>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 collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on Section 75 groups. At project level,</p>

	equality and rural needs assessment will be undertaken when developing projects.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None