



Subject:	Belfast Bikes – allocation of stock to social enterprises and charities
Date:	3 March 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Enterprise and Business Growth Manager

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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the allocation of the old stock of Belfast Bikes to social enterprises and charities, as previously agreed by the committee.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the work undertaken to date by the Enterprise and Business Growth team to allocate the stock of bikes• Note the recipients and proposed use of the old bikes• Note the opportunity to utilise this model to create further opportunities to create positive social impacts through the distribution of materials and products.

3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that, at the November 2020 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, it was agreed that officers should take forward a programme of work to distribute some of the Belfast Bikes that were due to be replaced.
3.2	Due to the arrival of new stock, there were a number of bikes due to be replaced and it was agreed that these were to be offered these out to the Social Economy, Co-operative and Charity sectors in Belfast. 100 bikes were made available for distribution. Organisations were able to use the bikes for a range of uses including but not limited to; stripping the bikes for parts, repairing them to sell or gift out and upcycling them. The council's main stipulation was that the handover of these bikes created a positive social impact in the communities across the city.
3.3	The Enterprise and Business Growth team developed an Expression of Interest form and associated guidelines for the allocation of the bikes. The guidelines stated that the bikes were to be allocated on a first come, first served basis, with a final closing date of 29 January 2021. Applicants were sought from organisations for a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 bikes each.
3.4	<p>The following guidelines had to be adhered to by all successful applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All successful applicants must sign an agreement accepting liability and responsibility for the bikes they obtain - Organisations must operate within Belfast's social economy, co-operative or charity sector - All bikes must be collected within one week of the council notifying the organisation that they have been allocated a number of bikes - Successful applicants will be given contact details for collection from a Belfast address when notified if they have been allocated bikes. They must agree a time and date to collect the bikes in order to abide by all COVID regulations - An organisation must apply for a minimum of five bikes - Bikes must be used for the purpose set out in each organisation's EoI - Successful applicants must be willing to participate in promotional activity if required.
3.5	The opportunity was launched via the council's communications team on Friday 15 January. This included promotion through the council's website, press releases, social media promotion, email distribution directly to social enterprises and cooperatives across the city

and stakeholders including SENI, Cooperative Alternatives and Trademark for further promotion.

3.6 Due to the level of demand, the scheme closed on 18 January at which point we had received 54 expressions of interest for the bikes. As per the guidelines, these were reviewed on a first come, first served basis until all 100 bikes were allocated.

3.7 The bikes have now been allocated to 15 organisations, each receiving between 5 and 10 bikes. Details of successful applicants are include below:

East Belfast Mission	Saints Youth Centre
The Turnaround Project	18 th Belfast Scout Group
Forward South Partnership	Lyric Theatre
Tools for Solidarity	Belfast South Community Resources
Failte Feirste Thiar	Mount Merrion Parish Church
Sudanese Community Association Northern Ireland	Salvation Army
Kith and Kin Financial Wellbeing for Employers	Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne
Ligoniel Improvement Association	

3.8 Organisations will be using these bikes for a variety of purposes with many refurbishing them to promote healthier lifestyles within their communities and to support them to access employment by cycling to work. Others want to gift these to the vulnerable, homeless and newly-arrived asylum seekers to help them get to appointments whilst others want to refurbish the bikes to sell or lease through the use of a pop-up shop.

3.9 The successful organisations were all notified on 22 January 2021 and issued with their legal documentation detailing the handover of liability and requirement for collection. If further bikes become available, they will be allocated to the remaining organisations who expressed an interest on a first come, first served basis as per the guidelines.

3.10 Overall, this model worked extremely well, and officers are now considering how a similar model could be used to distribute reusable items in the future to deliver local impact. The sectors have not only shown great interest in obtaining these items but are also able to showcase how they will create a positive social impact in our local communities.

3.11	<p><u>Financial and resource implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with this initiative. It demonstrates a positive re-use of existing resources.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality and good relations implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The main purpose of this initiative was to enable community-based organisations to create positive social impact in their area. Only organisations based in the council area were able to access the bikes.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None.</p>