



<b>Subject:</b>	A Bolder Vision Update
<b>Date:</b>	12 January 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager Callie Persic, Development Manager

<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 or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on the engagement programme and feedback from the consultation to date for the Bolder Vision for Belfast and additional engagement activities for elderly and disabled groups
1.2	To make Members aware of an upcoming DfC/DfI Ministerial workshop in City Hall to address issues associated with key ABV delivery projects such as Belfast Streets Ahead 3 and 5, key junctions and Glider Phase 2.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation activity, feedback to date and associated issues in relation to approval, timeframes and delivery</li> <li>• Upcoming DfC/DfI Ministerial workshop due to take place on 12 January 2022.</li> <li>• The proposed community led seminar, Joining the City, planned for January 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>A Bolder Vision consultation document</b>
<b>3.2</b>	At the 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 meeting the City Growth and Regeneration Members received an update on the Bolder Vision engagement activity, governance and timeframe for delivery.
<b>3.3</b>	A Bolder Vision aims to provide an holistic look at the city's infrastructure from a people and place based priority, to enable key design decisions to be made from a city user perspective on our emerging strategic capital programmes such as BRT Phase 2, Belfast Streets Ahead 3 & 5, the Inner Ring Junctions, Weavers Cross and the Transport Hub, private sector developments, key Housing-Led Regeneration areas such as the Inner North West and the sustainable and active travel network. Not only will this provide a framework for delivery, but it will help inform the forthcoming Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan. A Bolder Vision also aims to bring forward area-based infrastructure planning to strengthen and support the diversification of the city centre for tourism, the changing nature of retail, the increased student population and to provide the right infrastructure to enable the development of sustainable and inclusive city centre communities.
<b>3.4</b>	<p><b>A Bolder Vision Key Moves for transformation</b></p> <p>A Bolder Vision has identified a number of proposed 'Key Moves' to deliver radial change. These are underpinned with proposed short and long-term interventions that would support transformation in critical parts of the city to create a green, people focused, connected city centre for current and future users. The proposed Key Moves are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a Civic Spine</li> <li>2. Reimagine the Inner Ring Road</li> <li>3. Promote City Centre Living</li> <li>4. Embrace the River Lagan and Waterfront</li> </ol>
<b>3.5</b>	<p><b><u>Stakeholder engagement and feedback</u></b></p> <p>Council has been hosting the online survey on the Your Say Engagement HQ platform with DfI and DfC linking to this on their respective consultation sites. Supporting the content on Your Say is a Virtual Room that is accessed via an additional, external link and provides further information on</p>

	the background, Key Moves, other supporting capital projects and strategies and timeframe. As of 21 December, there has been 575 responses to the online consultation and 5,500 views of the site.
3.6	<p>The online responses received to date have been very positive, with approx. 97% of the online responses coming from individuals, with 75% of those respondents been from residents in Belfast, 17% from commuters and 4% from visitors. Respondents were also asked to confirm their primary method of access into the city centre with 35% of respondents travelling by car, 25% by bus, 18% by cycle and 12% by walking. Of the online responses received to date there has been significant support for the four moves and in particular for the civic spine and creating the right environment to support city centre living. In the two weeks prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> December a number of detailed written responses were received from organisations and key city stakeholders Belfast Chamber, Sustrans, Belfast Metropolitan Residents' Group, Queen's University, Belfast Civic Trust, Libraries NI, Sustrans and a collective response from the Belfast Harbour, Titanic Quarter Limited and Maritime Belfast Trust's, Officers in conjunction with the consultants continue to interrogate these responses, which are supportive to date, and include some comments that include:</p>
3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A call for action and delivery of high-quality interventions to support the emerging future city users;</li> <li>• The need for an updated Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan;</li> <li>• Better connections to communities and proposals around how the Inner Ring can function for traffic and better connections</li> <li>• Addressing car dominance but realising that car access is still required and needs to be better managed in terms of prioritisation of the transport hierarchy of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport;</li> <li>• Better connections to, and use of the river</li> <li>• Use other levers, e.g. 20pmh zone, Low Emissions Zones, enforcement</li> <li>• A suitable governance structure to streamline processes and support delivery</li> <li>• Be even bolder</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>There has been an extensive programme of in-person and virtual meetings organised throughout the consultation to get different perspectives on the proposed interventions, and to general new ideas and recommendations. Cross sector stakeholder input will help to ensure that the final Strategy and Delivery Plan is representative of the current and future needs of the city centre businesses, transportation, communities, visitors and users and provides the framework that integrates the design and delivery of infrastructure.</p>

3.9	<p>Specifically, there has been targeted engagement with partnership bodies that have a wide membership and reach and can disseminate information and host engagement sessions including, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, Area Partnerships, Belfast Chamber, BIDs, Climate Commission, City Development Board, IMTAC, cultural groups including the UNESCO Music Steering Group, BCC Core funded cultural organisations, City Reopening Group, QUB, UU, professional bodies, tourism, active travel, and various BCC internal staff networks including the Women's, PROUD and ABLE networks. Officers engaged with Council fora such as the Youth Forum, Migrant Forum, Greater Belfast Seniors' Forum and the Equality Consultative Forum. There was also focused engagement with different elements of DfI (e.g. Section offices, Active Travel) and Translink.</p>
3.10	<p>Two public webinars took place on the 25th November and the 1st December, and on the 14th December a specific session, supported by BSL sign language interpreters, was held to further reach out to elderly and disabled people. Feedback from these sessions will be added to the online public consultation survey. Officers are closely monitoring the weekly feedback and Jacobs will develop a Post-Consultation report in mid-January that will provide an overview of the feedback and submissions, detail the engagement and communications undertaken.</p>
3.11	<p>As reported at the December meeting of the CG&amp;R Committee a technical issue with the Virtual Room came to light at the end of November, which meant that some people who are blind or partially sighted could not access the Virtual Room platform. Working in conjunction with IMTAC and RNIB this was immediately addressed, and alternative arrangements were quickly put in place to ensure accessibility to the consultation material.</p>
3.12	<p>In order to address this issue, the Consultation period has been extended to the to the 14th January specifically for disabled and older people. During this extended period the YourSay platform and Virtual Room will reopen to the general public. Further engagement with these groups will continue with two 'Deep Dive' sessions on the 11th January 2022 that will explore issues, barriers and opportunities arising from ABV. The dates and agenda were agreed with the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) who is the main source of advice to Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of disabled and older people. The agenda and registration details were circulated to their members before Christmas. This was also placed on the YourSay and sent out on Council communication platforms. The deep dive sessions will cover topics that were raised at the IMTAC webinar in December such as, transport, blue badge parking, street clutter, cycle infrastructure design and the design of road junctions. Sign language interpreters (including backups) have been booked for each session.</p>

3.13	<p><b><u>Ministerial Workshop</u></b></p> <p>A major risk to the delivery of the Bolder Vision Framework is the potential lapse in timeframe for approval due to the 2022 election period, and the impact that this may have in informing the designs of the strategic capital investments of BRT2, Belfast Streets Ahead 3 &amp; 5, and the Inner Ring Junctions. Officers across the three organisations are still working to an accelerated programme and are striving to have a final document made available for Ministerial sign off by 16 March 2022. This document will provide the framework to inform all capital projects and emerging policy and strategy and will be followed in May with a detailed delivery plan.</p>
3.14	<p>As part of the ongoing engagement between BCC/DfC/DfI and to mitigate against potential delays, a workshop with the Ministers, CX and senior Council officers is planned to take place virtually on the 12th January 2022. It will be facilitated by Andrew Haley, the Chair of the DfC Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and Built Environment in Northern Ireland. The purpose is to discuss issues and potential conflicts in relation to Belfast Streets Ahead, the Inner Ring Junctions and Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 in the context of ABV. Despite the lack of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan in place (due to start in 2022), large infrastructure projects are still moving forward and there is a need to work within ABV as the coherent framework for delivery.</p>
3.15	<p><b><u>Joining the City</u></b></p> <p>In conjunction with this, officers are working with community groups in North Belfast, including Ashton and Healthy North Belfast, and representatives from city stakeholders including DfI and Ulster University to participate in a community led 'Joining the City' Seminar. This seminar will be specifically aligned to community based discussions of major regeneration and infrastructure schemes, including the new Ulster University and the York Street Interchange, and how these projects and the outworkings of the Bolder Vision can be maximised or proactively designed and implemented to restitch communities to the city centre and in particular to maximise the positive impacts of these projects on the people who live closest to them. This seminar is currently pencilled in for January with further details to follow in the New Year.</p>
3.16	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.17	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>None associated with this report, however, an EQIA Screening will be carried out on the Strategy.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents attached</b></p> <p>Appendix 1: ABV Consultation Brochure</p>