2nd November, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – Additional Item

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 6th November, 2018.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

5. **Operational Issues**

   (m) Location of a Sandbag Container at Mount Eagles Playground (Pages 1 - 4)
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**Subject:** Location of a Sandbag Container at Mount Eagles Playground  

**Date:** 6th November 2018  

**Reporting Officer:** Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services  

**Contact Officer:** Davy Neill, Emergency Coordination Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restricted Reports</th>
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| **Is this report restricted?** | Yes [ ] No [ ] Never [ ]  

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?  

- After Committee Decision [ ]  
- After Council Decision [ ]  
- Some time in the future [ ]  
- Never [ ]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call-in</th>
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| **Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** | Yes [ ] No [ ]  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.0</th>
<th>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Members to locate a sandbag container near Mount Eagles Playground, on ground owned by Belfast City Council. The container will store sandbags and bags of rock salt, for use by the community during flooding and severe winter weather.</td>
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1.2 The Department for Infrastructure will stock the container with sandbags and salt. This will provide an additional Belfast resource under the regional Community Resilience Programme.
## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- approve the location of the new sandbag container. A photograph showing the proposed location is attached to this report as Appendix A.

## 3.0 Main report

### 3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware there have been issues with flash flooding in the Lagmore area and the nearest sandbag container is located some considerable distance away at Finaghy Road North. In addition to the potential flooding issue, residents have raised concerns regarding lack of salt provision for local roads during icy conditions.

### 3.2 The roads in the area are unadopted and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is unable to provide grit boxes at this time. As an interim measure, the Department has agreed to locate a sandbag container in the area that can also be used to store bags of rock salt for use by the community. DfI will maintain and replenish the container and council staff will manage access to it in line with arrangements for other sandbag containers.

### 3.3 Although the 25Kg bags of rock salt are difficult to handle due to their size and weight and are not ideal in terms of providing salt to an area, the proposed use of the sandbag container offers an interim solution until the roads become formally adopted and other arrangements put in place.

### 3.4 The Council does not have a statutory requirement to salt roads and footpaths during severe winter weather and it has therefore been difficult to establish a single citywide solution to meet the needs of residents. A number of options for a more sustainable solution are being considered in consultation with DfI and Legal Services and a report will be brought to a future Committee meeting.

### 3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

DfI will provide the container and stock it with sandbags and salt.

### 3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

## 4.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed location of container.
Appendix A: Proposed Sandbag Container at Mount Eagles
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