

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



Thursday, 12th April, 2012

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Tuesday, 17th April, 2012 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. Requests for Deputations
3. Belfast Economy
 - (a) Retail Support Plan (Pages 1 - 12)
 - (b) Co-operatives Funding Application (Pages 13 - 16)

4. Shaping Belfast

- (a) Belfast Masterplan (Pages 17 - 20)
- (b) Renewing the Routes (Pages 21 - 24)
- (c) York Street Interchange (Pages 25 - 30)
- (d) Active Travel Projects (Pages 31 - 36)

5. Neighbourhoods, Communities and People

- (a) Big Lottery Supporting Families (Pages 37 - 48)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Retail Support Plan 2012-2013
Date:	17 April 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an overview of proposed Council support for the development of Belfast's independent retail sector during 2012-2013.
1.2	Members will be aware from previous meetings of the Development Committee that Belfast City Council has been particularly proactive in supporting a wide range of initiatives to assist in the development and promotion of the independent retail sector across the City. An overview of the outputs and outcomes from this intervention is attached as Appendix 1 . Support for the independent retail sector also forms part of the Council's new Investment Programme and there is a commitment to continued investment in the sector over the lifetime of this programme.
1.3	Members will also be aware that the Council provides significant support to Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) to provide an interface between council and local businesses within the city centre and to deliver specific services on behalf of the council within this area. One of the key areas of work for BCCM is to improve economic performance for city centre businesses, the majority of whom are retailers. Of the retailers in the city centre, it is anticipated that around 50% can be categorised as "independent" traders. However BCCM also provide an important interface with the larger retailers and the shopping centres, and this can provide council with a wider perspective of the challenges faced by the broader retail sector.

2	Key Issues
2.1	A thriving independent retail sector is important for the vitality and variety of our city, and Council has been instrumental in developing and delivering a number of initiatives, particularly over the last three years. Equally, the sector is dependent on a vibrant economy and, in the current climate, the retail sector – and in particular independent retailers – are under considerable pressure to sustain their business.

2.2	The Belfast Business Needs Survey 2011 has provided up to date research on the size and subsequent needs of the retail sector in Belfast. This research, teamed with discussions with the retail sector, has allowed Council to identify a range of targeted interventions that will help fill gaps in provision that have been identified by independent retailers and key stakeholders across the city.
2.3	The Belfast Business Needs survey noted that 56% of retailers in the city were particularly concerned at the inactivity and impact of the economic climate on their business. Retailers also raised concerns about competition and the rising cost of supplies. These issues were mirrored in discussions with retailers who also noted difficulties in promoting their unique independent retail offering and in marketing this to both Belfast residents and tourists. The Business Survey also noted the key areas of support of interest to retailers including trading online, sales development and business planning.
2.4	While the majority of council support to date has focused on independent retailers, we also work with larger retailers to see how they can support our activities and complement the offering. One example of this is our work with House of Fraser on a design programme for undergraduate Fashion Management students, as a result of which one student was awarded an internship and subsequently a full-time employment opportunity with House of Fraser's design team. We have also had discussions with House of Fraser about how they can include local franchises and concessions within the store and we worked closely with Jason Shankey in establishing his franchise within the Belfast store. We are due to meet with the larger retailers shortly and will bring any additional proposals back to Council in due course.
2.5	The current economic downturn presents real challenges for our independents and it is considered essential that an appropriate, tailored support programme is provided to the businesses at this time. This proposed support package should be considered in the context of the wider Council support for businesses, where the focus is on increasing productivity and competitiveness as a means of driving business growth. Independent retailers can also avail of many of these generic business development programmes and events.
2.6	<p>The proposed activities are set in the framework of the recently-published report by Mary Portas on behalf of the UK government. This report suggests that "High Streets of the future must be a hub of the community that local people are proud of and want to protect." Members will be aware of previous activity in this regard where BCC has asked Minister McCausland to consider Belfast in its new 'Portas' based initiative which comprises local research into Northern Ireland's towns on retail competitiveness. The Portas Review sets out six themes with 29 recommendations to re-animate town and city centres as well as local neighbourhoods. These include:</p>
<p>1. Getting our town centres running like businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Introduction of 'Town Teams' to engage with local retail stakeholders to create sustainable high streets of the future</u> – Council already supports a number of fledgling and established voluntary groups across the city as well as BCCM in the city centre. - <u>Importance of markets as a vibrant attraction in any retail area</u> - (Belfast City Council already makes significant investment in Smithfield and St George's Market and we have recently run a successful "Market Start Up" programme, creating 9 new businesses). - <u>Importance of Business Improvements Districts (BIDS) in providing local businesses to form a strategic partnership to benefit their area.</u> In Northern Ireland the BIDS Bill is currently being drafted, with the DSD Minister Nelson 	

	<p>McCausland aiming to introduce the Bill to the Assembly before the summer recess. Once the bill receives Royal Assent secondary legislation will be required. DSD expect that the BIDS legislation will be operational by next summer. This legislation could have implications for some of the key retail areas (who may consider becoming a BID) and for BCCM.</p> <p>2. Getting the basics right to allow business to flourish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>The Portas Review focuses on the operating environment for retailers in England, particularly around rate concessions and controlled parking schemes.</u> Belfast City Council has no direct control over these issues. We can however continue to lobby and liaise with public bodies to identify how they can best support retailers and businesses across the city. - <u>Make high streets accessible, attractive and safe.</u> This is a key area of work for Belfast City Centre Management, within input from a number of council services including cleansing and community safety. The new Clean Neighbourhoods legislation provides a framework for council to make more impact in this area of work. <p>3. Levelling the playing field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Introduce Secretary of State ‘exceptional sign off’ for new out of town developments and encouraging retailers to report on their support of the high street.</u> Belfast City Council will continue to lobby for appropriate planning instruments to support town centre development. <p>4. Defining landlords roles and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Encourage property owners to be responsible landlords and explore further disincentives to prevent landlords from leaving properties empty.</u> Although Council has no discretionary powers to do this, much work has been done by the Renewing the Routes in identifying areas of the city for support and working with property owners to improve the physical appearance of streets across the city. We are also working closely with BCCM and other partners to look at the implementation of recent legislative changes to incentivise occupancy of vacant units, both for “meanwhile” use and for more sustainable business ventures. A report on Empty Retail Spaces will be presented to Committee next month. <p>5. Giving communities a greater say</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Give local retailers more say in what happens in their area.</u> To support this it is proposed that council continue its support of traders groups across the city, and facilitate a proposed retail forum to give retailers an opportunity to raise and respond to issues and exchange ideas. <p>6. Re-imagining our high streets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>The Portas Review challenges us to look at our ‘high streets’ differently and to appreciate that they are not just places to shop but also act as neighbourhood hubs.</u> Many of the traders’ groups are engaging with non-retail businesses in their area and becoming “business associations”. This recognises the mix of businesses on the high street. It also encourages support for a wider range of initiatives to benefit all businesses within an area, not just retailers. <p>2.7 Taking account of these recommendations, a draft support programme for the retail sector is attached for consideration.</p> <p>2.8 The programme includes a range of marketing and promotion, business development, networking and mentoring initiatives to improve the performance of existing businesses and support collaborative marketing initiatives to increase footfall in</p>
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	identified retail locations. Details of each of the individual activities is identified below:
2.9	Business development initiatives:
2.10	<p>1. <u>Retail Therapy Programme</u></p> <p>The Retail Therapy programme has been a feature of previous support programmes for the independent retail sector. Given its success to date – every £1 invested generates £10 additional business for participating companies – it is proposed that this tailored support continues. As part of the programme each participating retailer undertakes a business needs audit to identify the key issues facing them, followed by the creation of individual improvement plans. Businesses then have access tailored one-to-one mentoring, workshops and best practice visits. Participants are also be eligible for small grants from Council to help with the implementation of their improvement plans, therefore providing long term benefits to each participant.</p>
2.11	The participants on previous waves of the Retail Therapy greatly valued the programme and provided positive feedback regarding areas of future support. It is proposed that 30 Retailers be recruited on to this programme.
2.12	<p>2. <u>Retail Masterclasses</u></p> <p>In 2011-2012, a series of retail masterclasses were provided. These were open to all independent retailers across Belfast and offered free of charge. Nine masterclasses were provided and these were attended by approximately 160 independent retailers across the city. Feedback from these sessions has been extremely positive and many whom attended have indicated an eagerness to attend similar Council led events in the future. As a result it is proposed that these masterclasses continue to provide flexible and timely support to retailers to provide knowledge in appropriate areas and provide opportunities for networking.</p>
2.13	<p>3. <u>Retail Mentoring Programme</u></p> <p>Retailers across the city have identified a need for flexible and timely mentoring in response to issues arising which may affect their business. They noted that, while the masterclasses were extremely useful, they would benefit greatly from access to one-to-one expertise on topics including finance, succession planning, training and social media.</p>
2.14	It is therefore proposed that council provide flexible mentoring support of up to two days for retailers who identify a specific need within their business and who are not on any other council supported programme. It is proposed that flexible mentoring be offered to at least 25 retailers. This mirrors the mentoring support that we can offer to other businesses but which is not currently open to retail businesses (given that European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding cannot be used for retail businesses).
2.15	<p>4. <u>Market Start Up Programme</u></p> <p>This programme was introduced as a pilot in 2011-2012 to support potential entrepreneurs and new start-up businesses to explore market trading as a possible business model, in advance of progression to establishing a retail outlet at a future date.</p>
2.16	The programme aims to provide support to individuals interested in establishing a specialist food or craft business and includes one-to-one mentoring, the opportunity to explore best practice, market research, product development and the development of business plans. On successful completion of the programme and subsequent vetting, participants were able to test trade at St George's Market for a limited period.

2.17	It is proposed that two waves of this programme take place with a total of 20 participants, subject to discussions with the markets management team regarding available space and taking account of existing waiting lists.
2.18	Marketing and promotion initiatives
	<p>5. <u>New trader group facilitation</u></p> <p>It is proposed that council will provide support to new traders groups across the city to help them to form legally constituted groups/associations. Tailored advice sessions will be offered to groups to help facilitate this, to link into existing support; identify their priorities for action to address the challenges and help deliver on these.</p>
2.19	It is proposed that seed funding should be made available to work on issues such as collaborative promotion and marketing campaigns, events to increase footfall and customer loyalty initiatives. Initial discussions with traders have highlighted a wider range of issues including business rates; street cleansing; car parking and environmental improvements. Whilst we can advise on these issues and advocate on their behalf to relevant agencies, through local elected representatives, it is suggested that the focus of this particular support should remain on those marketing-related issues.
2.20	We are currently working with six groups (Lower North Belfast Business Alliance, Cliftonville Circus Traders, Shankill Road, Antrim Road Traders, Holywood Arches, West Belfast) and it is proposed that we work with an additional three groups in the coming year.
2.21	<p>6. <u>Area Marketing Campaigns</u></p> <p>Collaborative marketing and promotional campaigns will be encouraged for promoting the clusters of independent retail businesses across Belfast with a “shop local” focus and aimed at improving recognition of the importance of the independent retail sector in the city. This funding will be open to existing traders’ groups who area already constituted.</p>
2.22	Under the previous retail support plan, provision had been made for local campaigns to enhance the profile of designated shopping areas through a range of targeted support initiatives. This enabled groups to undertake activities such as producing local trader maps and business directories, creating a website for promotion and online trading and organising local events to increase footfall and trading in specific areas.
2.23	It is proposed that constituted traders groups may apply for up to £30,000 in support for expenditure against a range of agreed promotional activities, similar to those identified above, within the current financial year. It is also accepted that a number of the traders groups are more advanced than others and that some may be able to bring resources to supplement the council contribution. In recognition of this, it is proposed that, beyond the £30,000 support provided, Belfast City Council can match the trader contribution £ for £, up to a total maximum contribution from council of £40,000. Consideration should be given to the sustainability of the proposed intervention, given that funding levels cannot be guaranteed in future years.
2.24	<p>Networking initiatives</p> <p>7. <u>Retail Forum</u></p> <p>It is proposed that Council facilitate a Retail Forum to allow exchange of ideas between stakeholders including local traders groups, Council representatives, Belfast City Centre Management, the Northern Ireland Independent Retailers Trade</p>

	Association and other bodies. BCCM currently operate a Retailer Stakeholder Group based on the City Centre, therefore account will be taken as to how these fora should interrelate. The forum could also update retailers on council initiatives, changes in legislation and provide an opportunity to network with other retailers.
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3	Resource Implications																						
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Programme Activities</th> <th>Indicative Budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Business development initiatives</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retail Therapy Programme (incl. Retail Masterclasses): Business Development Programme for 30 retailers and six retail masterclasses.</td> <td>£51,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Market Start Up Programme: Support programme to help establish 20 new market businesses.</td> <td>£30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retail Mentoring Programme</td> <td>£14,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Marketing and promotion initiatives</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trader Engagement: Support to help traders form legally constituted groups /associations</td> <td>£10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area Marketing Campaigns for constituted Trader Groups: Support for local traders groups to develop collaborative marketing campaigns.</td> <td>£100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Networking initiatives</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trader Forum: Support two retail focus forum events</td> <td>£5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£210,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programme Activities	Indicative Budget	Business development initiatives		Retail Therapy Programme (incl. Retail Masterclasses): Business Development Programme for 30 retailers and six retail masterclasses.	£51,000	Market Start Up Programme: Support programme to help establish 20 new market businesses.	£30,000	Retail Mentoring Programme	£14,000	Marketing and promotion initiatives		Trader Engagement: Support to help traders form legally constituted groups /associations	£10,000	Area Marketing Campaigns for constituted Trader Groups: Support for local traders groups to develop collaborative marketing campaigns.	£100,000	Networking initiatives		Trader Forum: Support two retail focus forum events	£5,000	Total	£210,000
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3.2	It is proposed that, for those programmes that are subject to public tender, delegated authority be given to the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Committee (or nominees), to approve the most economically advantageous tender, subject to the completion of a contract by Legal Services.																						
3.3	<p><u>Human Resources</u> No additional staff resources required.</p>																						
3.4	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> No specific asset implications.</p>																						

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality or good relations implications to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the contents of this report and approve the proposed Action Plan for 2012-2013 - Agree that, for those programmes that are subject to public tender, delegated authority be given to the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Committee (or nominees), to approve the

	most economically advantageous tender, subject to the completion of a contract by Legal Services.
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6	Decision Tracking
Progress report to be presented to committee at end of financial year. Timescale: March 2013 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay	

7	Key to Abbreviations
BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management BIDS – Business Improvement Districts ERDF – European Regional Development Fund	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 Review of Retail Action Plan 2011-2012	

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Appendix 1: Review of Retail Action Plan 2011-2012

1. Retail Therapy

- 30 Retailers have completed the Retail Therapy Programme in 2011-2012
- 150 retailers have completed the Retail Therapy Programme within the last five years
- For every £1 spent by BCC on the Retail Therapy Programme £10 has been generated for the participating businesses
- Successes from the recent programmes include:
 - Shankey's Male Grooming have opened a new concession in the House of Fraser, Victoria Square creating two new jobs.
 - Pluck and Devour have opened a concession in the House of Fraser.
 - Ground Coffee Shop are in the process of opening another coffee shop in Belfast creating 16 jobs.
 - Arcadia Deli - Regional Winner UK's Best Deli
 - Honey nominated for a UK Stars: Underlines' Award
- Mark Graham-Brown, Arcadia: "the programme gave us the opportunity to step back from the business and think about the 'bigger picture'. As a sole trader just getting the day to day tasks completed can be a challenge and time to think about branding, marketing, merchandising and customer service etc is generally non existent. The programme forced us to devote some time and effort on these and have resulted in improvements over the period of the programme".

2. Market Start-Up Programme

There has been high demand for places on this pilot programme. A total of 9 participants completed the programme with a waiting list of 20 people should the programme be run again.

Nine participants developed products and undertook test trading at St. George's Market on 18 and 25 March 2012.

First Name	Surname	Products
Andrew	Cornwell	Hot food - potatoes with cheese raclette
Barbara	Grugan	Buns/traybakes
Andrea	Juanpera	Handmade vintage style jewellery
Grace	Loughrey	Handmade teddies, badges etc
Lucy	Magee	Prepared fruit in containers
Claire	Magowan	Cupcakes, cakes etc
Grainne	McClellan	Knitted products and jams/chutneys
Norma	Smallwood	Jewellery and handmade vintage clothing
Lindsay	Welsh	Handcrafts, jewellery

3. Area Campaigns

5 constituted traders groups have been awarded funding to put in place a local action plan to promote retail.

1. Strandtown Traders Association held two events – Victorian Christmas Celebration and Spring Fair and noted increases in sales on the day and in the week following the event with some retailers noting up to a 30% increase in sales. The Association have

been very encouraged by the positive comments from customers in the weeks following the events.

2. Ballyhackamore Business Association held a Christmas event with approximately 700 people attending. Following this event the association produced a special Christmas booklet with offers which resulted in an increase in sales and publicity for the businesses involved. Additional businesses have now joined the association following the success of the Christmas event. The association also held a shopping promotion during Belfast Independent Retail Week and have launched a new Facebook page and branded e-zine.
3. Lisburn Road Business Association have compiled details of all businesses on the Lisburn Road to be included on their website whether they pay membership to the association or not. Two events have been held with footfall estimated to be 15% higher than usual on these days. Sales showed a corresponding increase with food retailers noting a 20% rise in sales. They have also invested in an advertising campaign.
4. Ormeau Business Association has been awarded seed funding to establish Ormeau Business Association including branding and website development.
5. Sandy Row Business Association has been awarded seed funding to run a shop local event.

4. Trader Group Development

We are working with the following groups to help establish traders groups and draw up action plans:

- Lower North Belfast Business Alliance
- Cliftonville Circus Traders
- Shankill Road
- Antrim Road Traders
- Holywood Arches
- West Belfast

5. Belfast Independent Retail Week

The first Belfast Independent Retail Week took place from 5-11 March. A total of 160 retailers signed up to be involved in the BIRW brochure with a further 20 retailers taking part in the council's flagship events: Celebrate Independent Fashion and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. There were also visual merchandising and customer care competitions during the week. Feedback from the initiative has largely been positive although it has been suggested that individual area campaigns may be more beneficial and ensure more local buy-in from the neighbourhood hubs.

Feedback for BIRW (in general):

- Thanks for having us involved in your great week last week I really felt proud to be a part of it and hopefully going on from here it will grow and grow.
- Although in its first year, it is already a success. We have been talking to our customers non stop about it and have had a lot of support. As you know, The Wicker Man welcomes a lot of visitors. A lot of them, especially Americans, think we are very lucky to have so many independent retailers, as most of their shopping experience in the States is done in shopping malls.
- We really appreciate all the opportunities that Belfast City Council offer to retailers – it really is first class.

Customer Care Competition – 84 Businesses entered the customer care competition and received a mystery shop visit and mystery shop report with recommendations for business development.

Retail

Winner: Andrew Watson
Highly Commended: Bogart Menswear
Highly Commended: Co Couture
Highly Commended: Learning Space

Hospitality

Winner: Baked in Belfast
Highly Commended: Café Still

Service

Winner: K9 Grooming Studio
Highly Commended: EK Eyewear
Highly Commended: Jason Shankey Male Grooming

Visual Merchandising Competition – 67 businesses entered the window dressing competition.

Winner: Honey Essential Collection
Highly Commended: Arcadia Delicatessen
Highly Commended: Equinox

6. Retail Workshops

- **Customer Care for Retail – Wednesday 15 February**
 - 12 participants
- **Facebook for Retail – Monday 20 February**
 - 21 participants
- **Creating fantastic displays – Tuesday 28 February**
 - 21 participants

Feedback for workshops:

- Very informative and up to date information
- Opened up more awareness/strategies
- Good ideas, inspiring use of materials
- Got us thinking, useful insights and practical information
- Excellent got lots of ideas
- Useful tips that we will definitely use

Suggestions for future workshops/support:

- How to create a webpage covering all technical issues
- Using Twitter for retail
- A public site to promote small business locally with weekly PR promoting a different business from each area of the city
- Merchandising – one to one support
- Motivational workshops
- Retail networking
- Linking to tourism opportunities
- Market stall display techniques.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Support for cooperatives/EU funding application
Date:	17 April 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	2012 has been recognised as the International Year of Co-operatives by the United Nations.
1.2	Cooperatives are defined as “autonomous associations of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise”. As such, they represent a collective approach to the risk and reward associated with enterprise.
1.3	As a business model cooperatives are recognised as being resilient in challenging economic conditions. The fundamental difference of co-operatives is that they have members, not shareholders that make decisions democratically. Members of the cooperative are simultaneously owners of the enterprise and beneficiaries of the enterprise activity.
1.4	There are a number of types of cooperatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worker cooperatives – owned and run by the people who work there. - Consumer cooperatives - owned by its customers, employees can generally also become members. - Co-operative consortia – Co-operative consortia are formed when a group of businesses join together as a cooperative. They remain independent businesses, but by working together gain a competitive advantage.
1.5	While cooperatives are widely found in many parts of Europe, there are limited examples of cooperatives in Northern Ireland, outside of a number of well-known agricultural cooperatives and, to some extent, credit unions. In 2011 Cooperatives UK reported the existence of 239 cooperatives in Northern Ireland generating a total turnover of £0.9bn. The number of cooperatives within the UK has been experiencing growth in the since 2008 with 2010 being particularly favourable with growth for the UK sector of 9.2%.

1.6	Cllr McVeigh has asked that support towards the promotion of cooperatives as a business model is further investigated as part of Belfast City Council support towards business. In this context, Belfast City Council has been approached to become a partner in an Interreg IVB proposal focused on the development of cooperatives. The project is expected to last for 3 years and would cost in the region of €2m - €3m.
1.7	Members may be aware that the Interreg IVB programme supports transnational initiatives on a range of topics related to economic, environmental and social development.
1.8	Northern Ireland is located within the North West Europe (NWE) eligible area. This comprises Belgium, France, Ireland, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK together with Switzerland.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Interreg funding is available at up to 75% of eligible costs within NWE projects. This can include in-kind contributions such as staff time.
2.2	Projects require transnational partners, each of whom is willing to contribute to the learning within the project. To date, Limerick County Council has agreed to take the lead in the project. They have become interested in the concept of cooperatives following the move from the area of a number of foreign direct investment (FDI) schemes. There is concern not only at the loss of jobs in the area but also at the loss of IP (intellectual property) and research and development activity, which was the property of the FDI company. The council is keen to work with those formerly employed in the business to look at alternative forms of enterprise which will ensure that the profits, research, intelligence and networks from any new business initiatives are retained in the area.
2.3	Other partners that have confirmed their commitment to the project include University of Sheffield Hallam; Limerick City Council; Cooperatives Scotland and a Cooperative Development Agency in Netherlands. The Mondragon Corporation – a corporation and federation of worker cooperatives based in the Basque region, Spain – will also participate in the project as an observer (given that it is located outside the eligible area). Mondragon is the seventh largest Spanish company in terms of asset turnover and the leading business group in the Basque country.
2.4	The final details of the project are currently being worked out by the project partners but they are likely to involve some element of embedding knowledge in education programmes as well as practitioner conferences, demonstration projects and visits to enterprises. Local partners will also take a lead in piloting specific initiatives and disseminating lessons learned with other partners. For example, Limerick County Council is working with a professor in the University of Limerick to look at establishing a research cooperative. This will bring together research emanating from the university and, by establishing a cooperative model, will bring together the university and research fellows in a partnership in which risk and reward are shared. The expectation is that it will help retain some of the local talent in the city, thereby supporting the wider economic development and business growth. There is an opportunity to explore a similar opportunity in Belfast, potentially focusing on a different research area.
2.5	The project budget is also being finalised at present. As a project partner, Belfast might be expected to commit up to a total of around €80,000 over the course of the

	project lifetime. This can be made up of both staff time and cash contribution.
2.6	Belfast City Council has been asked to be a partner given its potential to engage local businesses and research institutes to look at possible cooperatives models. There are a number of local cooperatives developing in the city at present, such as a taxi cooperative and a cleaning cooperative. However there may be scope for developing additional cooperatives and the funding available through this project will allow this concept to be developed further. Local organisations such as, Trademark Belfast are currently promoting individuals seeking to form cooperatives within the city. If approved, the cooperative model may form part of a locally based partnership model to take this project forward.
2.7	The deadline for the Interreg application is 11 May 2012, Belfast City Council are required to confirm their willingness to participate in the project in advance of this date.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> The financial commitment is currently being finalised. A further report on the financial contribution required by council, if approved will be submitted brought back to Committee to allow a final decision on participation.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The work required will be undertaken by existing staff resources.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> No specific asset implications.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality or good relations implications to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the request to register our interest in an Interreg IVB NWE project based on developing cooperatives.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>If approval is given to participate, an update on the project application process will be brought back to Committee to allow a final decision on participation. Timescale: December 2012 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>IP – Intellectual property NWE – North West Europe</p>	

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Masterplan
Date:	17 th April 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3463 Keith Sutherland, Planning & Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed additional work on the Masterplan arising from the initial consultation and feedback from Members and to seek approval for additional resources to carry out the proposed actions.
1.2	The 6 th March 2012 Committee agreed that the progression of the Masterplan should be based on a two stage engagement process ensuring engagement with the Executive (Departments) and Committee prior to wider consultation. This agreement was on the basis that a further report would be brought before the Committee in respect of the proposed arrangements and the additional resource requirements.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The first stage of the engagement will focus on work with the Executive to take full advantage of the potential for alignment of the Masterplan with strategic proposals and initiatives for the city. This work will seek to ensure recognition across government of the need for broader support for the Masterplan objectives.
2.2	This element of the engagement has been initiated with the Masterplan forming part of a broader agenda for a meeting that took place with the DoE Minister and officials. It is proposed that the same approach will be taken in a series of meetings to be organised with the other relevant Executive Ministers over the coming months.

2.3	The feedback from this engagement will supplement the comments already received from Committee and the individual Party briefings and be incorporated into a revised draft Masterplan. It is proposed that this revised document will be brought before the Committee for further consideration and agreement prior to the second stage wider engagement.
2.4	It was previously agreed that there should be a focussed approach to the additional work in respect of the broader consultation and engagement for the ongoing Masterplan review. The Committee may recall that the previous work, for the development of the original Masterplan, had been shaped by workshops covering the main strategy themes.
2.5	A thematic basis for the second stage of the engagement could provide an effective approach, alongside the publication for consultation of a revised version of the current draft, following the completion of the first stage engagement. This could involve a series of half day workshop events themed addressing the main objectives of the revised Masterplan including the: Neighbourhood City; Centre City; Learning City; Accessible & Connected City; and City Economy.
2.6	The proposed approach would be to target participants from for the sessions from the key stakeholders in the statutory, private and community sectors in the city. The focus for the work would be to build on the stage one engagement activity with the emphasis on the alignment between the Masterplan and other strategies or initiatives.
2.7	The sessions would be facilitated by external consultants to ensure continuity and the effective integration of the outputs into revision for a finalised document. The consultants would be required to compile the finding and incorporate any additional feedback from the public consultation into a final document, including and implementation plan with recommendations for further action or activity.
2.8	The Masterplan consultants (SLR Consulting) who were responsible for the current draft Review document due to their experience and for technical reasons are uniquely placed to support the Department in carrying out this additional work. It is therefore proposed that that will be appointed on a proprietary basis to deliver the additional work.
2.9	This appointment will be subject to the confirmation that the costs would not exceed a budget of £15,000 and that a detailed costs proposal covering the full scope of the additional works are submitted by them beforehand and approved by the Director of Development.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The proposed potential maximum budget of £15,000 can be met from provision within the approved Departmental Estimates for 2012/13.

4	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the proposed approach to the appointment of consultants to carry out the additional engagement work and finalisation of a revised Masterplan document; and (ii) endorse the allocation of a budget of up to £15,000 to carry out the

	proposed engagement activity and complete the Masterplan Review document;
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6	Decision Tracking

8	Documents Attached

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Renewing the Routes Programme 2012-2016
Date:	17 th April 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3463 Keith Sutherland, Planning & Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This report provides an update on the general progress of the Renewing the Routes programme and seeks the authority to invite tenders for the next phase of the programme.
1.2	In February 2012 Committee agreed the 2012-16 programme covering eight target areas across the city.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Renewing the Routes Update</u></p> <p>Now in its eighth year, the Renewing the Routes initiative is currently in action across the city - at Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Grosvenor Road and Antrim Road. Our trademark commercial improvement scheme is now well underway in all the areas, with over 80 local businesses receiving environmental enhancements, including items such as painting and new signage.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Antrim Road</u></p> <p>The main emphasis for the Antrim Road work is the commercial improvements. Around 30 properties will be included in the final scheme, while works are already underway on a number of properties. The public realm resurfacing work at the Atlantic Ave shopping area is nearing completion and plans are progressing for lighting at the prominent St Ignatius Orthodox Church. Building on this project, the church is working with PSNI, PBNI and our Community</p>

	<p>Services who helped to host an Open Day showcasing their facilities which are available to the wider community.</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p><u>Castlereagh Street</u> The commercial improvement scheme has started on site and in addition to the other environmental schemes, we have secured additional resources from the Department for Social Development to improve the appearance of five vacant properties through works coordinated by the unit. Designs are also being finalised for the lighting and environmental improvement works to the Mountpottinger Presbyterian and Mountpottinger Non-Subscribing churches.</p>
<p>2.4</p>	<p><u>Grosvenor Road</u> On Grosvenor Road we have worked closely with the local community and our Parks & Leisure colleagues to create a new community garden adjacent to the Grosvenor Road pitches. The Renewing the Routes element delivered the infrastructure for the project which included layout and resurfacing works. Adjacent to the community garden public realm improvement works are underway at the corner of Distillery Street and Grosvenor Road. The Commercial Improvement scheme has been a popular success with 90% participation in the project. In conjunction with this we are currently carrying out improvements works to a local community facility and club. A new tourism sign to be located at the shops will link the existing trail on Falls Road and has been installed working in conjunction with our Tourism Culture & Arts. We will continue to look at projects to build on the impact of these completed schemes with our partners both within and outside the council.</p>
<p>2.5</p>	<p><u>Sandy Row</u> Working in partnership with statutory agencies, the Revitalise Partnership, Greater Village Regeneration Trust and the Belfast South Resource Centre a number of joint initiatives have been developed to complement the Renewing the Routes projects. With close to 80% of the scheme complete initial feedback from traders has been very positive. Working with TREE, local long-term unemployed youths underwent extensive training and worked in parallel to the Council by improving a number of vacant properties. Improvement works to the Orange Hall and the installation of the tourist blade is close to completion. As a direct result of the improvements vacant properties three new business have been attracted to the area. The Revitalise Partnership, working with our economic development unit, has scheduled a Sandy Row “Revitalise Day” to promote independent traders in the area. Additional work is soon to commence on a feasibility study for the former Gilpins site and Sandy Row has now been included in DSD masterplan for extensive public realm improvements.</p>
<p>2.6</p>	<p><u>Delegated Authority</u> Procurement of proposed works</p> <p>The Renewing the Routes team will work in liaison with the Project Management Unit of the Property and Projects Department who will manage the procurement of necessary construction related design services and construction contracts for the carrying out of the works across all the areas and the subsequent administration of the contracts.</p> <p>To support the ongoing activity and successful implementation of the future programme committee is requested to approve the invitation of tenders for</p>

	<p>construction related design services and construction contracts. These are required for the carrying out of the works across all the areas identified and the award of contracts to those firms submitting the tenders which are evaluated as being the most economically advantageous in terms of quality and cost criteria, in accordance with Council procurement guidelines.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	There are no Resource Implications attached to this report

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report

5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>5.1 Note the updates on the current implementation activity in Antrim, Castlereagh Street, Sandy Row and Grosvenor Road; and</p> <p>5.2 Approve the invitation of tenders for construction related design services and measured term contracts for the carrying out of the works across all the areas identified and the award of contracts to those firms submitting the tenders which are evaluated as being the most economically advantageous in terms of quality and cost criteria, in accordance with Council procurement guidelines.</p>

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	York Street Interchange proposals
Date:	17 April 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Department for Regional Development (DRD) Roads Service presented options for the proposed York Street interchange to Development Committee on the 27 June 2011 as part of a public consultation process.
1.2	The existing York Street Interchange is a key junction on the strategic road network which links three of the busiest roads in Northern Ireland, the Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways. It is the main gateway to Belfast from the North, provides access to the port of Belfast as well as facilitates local traffic movement. It is considered that the existing traffic signal control at the York Street junction causes delays and congestion particularly at peak times, therefore DRD Roads Service have identified a number of options to remove the bottleneck.
1.3	Four options (A, B, C and D) aimed to improve traffic flow on the strategic road network have been proposed. The options will provide direct links between the Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways by creating new flyovers over and underpasses below the existing Lagan Road and Dargan Rail bridges. Further details on the four options are outlined in Appendix 1.
2	Key Issues
2.1	At the June 2011 Committee meeting, Members raised a number of issues relating to the regeneration implications and the air quality and noise impact of the four options (See Appendix 2). In addition, the potential implications of proposed future developments such as the extension of University of Ulster campus at York Street, Royal Exchange and the City Quays proposals on the proposed road infrastructure will need to be evaluated. Roads Service stated that information on air quality and noise impact was not available as detailed environmental assessment would only be carried out once a preferred option was selected.

2.2	In order for an informed response to the York Street proposals to be developed, the Council requested that the air quality and noise impact data that informed the design of the options be provided to assist with the assessment.
2.3	At a meeting on 2 April 2012, Roads Service presented a brief overview of the data for the options previously presented to committee. However, the manner in which the assessment data was presented did not allow for effective assessment of the air quality standards and in order to better understand the results, Council officers requested access to the data and modelling outputs used in the initial assessment. As a result, Roads Service has agreed to set up a meeting between Council officers and their consultants to provide access to the data. The Council's air quality officer submitted a detailed request for data to Roads Service on 2 April 2012. It is intended that once the environmental data is assessed, this will inform a wider Council response taking account of the opportunities for regeneration in this area.
2.4	Roads Service confirmed that the expected timescale to proceed to Stage 3 - preferred option development is June 2012. Consequently, a Special Committee meeting is requested in early May 2012, for Members to consider a draft response on the Council's position regarding the proposed options.

3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
3.1	No considerations.

4	Recommendations
4.1	To consider the request for a Special to consider a proposed Council response to the Roads Service proposals for the York St Interchange.

5	Decision Tracking
There is no specific Decision Tracking attached to this report.	

6	Key to Abbreviations
DRD – Department for Regional Development	

7	Documents attached
Appendix 1 – Options Summary for Strategic Road Improvements at the York Street Interchange Belfast	
Appendix 2 – Council initial response to Yorkgate Interchange presentation – July 2011	

Appendix 1

Four Options for Strategic Road Improvements at the York Street interchange Belfast

Option A

The key features are:

- Movement between M2 and Westlink via underpasses below ground level underneath new York Street bridge and existing Lagan Road and Dargan Rail bridges
- Westlink to M3 movement via underpass below existing ground level and new York Street bridge
- M3 to Westlink movement controlled by traffic signals similar to existing
- All slip roads at Clifton Street remain open
- Cost approximately £72m.

Option B

The key features are:

- Movement between M2 and Westlink (southbound) via new bridge over existing Lagan Road and Dargan Rail bridges, approximately 18 metres above existing ground level
- Movement between Westlink and M2 (northbound) via underpass below existing ground level under new York Street bridge and existing Dargan Rail bridge
- Westlink to M3 (eastbound) movement via underpass below existing ground level and under new York Street bridge
- M3 to Westlink (westbound) movement via new bridge over York Street
- All slip roads at Clifton Street remain open
- Cost approximately £100m

Option C

The key features are:

- Movements between M2 and Westlink via underpasses below existing ground level underneath new York Street bridge and existing Lagan Road and Dargan Rail Bridges
- Westlink to M3 movement via underpass below existing ground level and new York Street bridge
- All slip roads at Clifton Street remain open
- Cost approximately £98m

Option D

The key features are:

- Movements between M2 and Westlink via new bridges over existing Lagan Road and Dargan Rail bridges, approximately 18metres above existing ground level
- Westlink to M3 movement via traffic signal controlled junctions at York Street and Nelson Street
- M3 to Westlink movement via new bridge over York Street
- M2/M3 bound on-slip from Clifton Street closed
- All other slip roads at Clifton Street remain open
- Cost approximately £95m

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Appendix 2

Council initial response to Yorkgate Interchange - July 2011

Thank you for the presentation on the options for the York Street Interchange to the Council's Development Committee on the 27th June 2011. The Council have a number of initial comments following the presentation but would request additional time to carry out further analysis of the proposed options for the York Street interchange including consideration of the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of each option.

The Council would like to raise the following preliminary comments:

- Clarification was requested on the time period for planning and implementation of the proposed York Street Interchange scheme. Concern was also expressed by the Committee that the process for designing and building road schemes in the past had been too lengthy.
- Clarification is sought on whether consideration has been given to making York Street two-way as part of the proposed scheme. The Committee would be keen for proposed improvements in the strategic road network to take account of the potential to deliver improvements in the connectivity for the local road network and communities.
- There are concerns relating to the potential impact of the proposed road scheme on local inner cities communities in particular the potential to cause further severance from the city centre. Opportunities to improve connectivity and regenerate deprived communities should be highlighted and delivered in conjunction with other government agencies.
- Further information and analysis is required on the potential impacts the proposed options will have, in terms of noise pollution and air quality, on existing residential areas and any proposed residential development sites in the vicinity.
- Additional information was requested on the efficiency of the proposed junction options and value for money in relation social and environmental impact.
- The Council would request consideration is given to the identification within the option proposals of opportunities for the reallocation of existing potentially surplus road space in the surrounding network.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Date:	17 April 2012
Subject:	DRD Active Travel Projects
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As reported at the March committee, the Department for Regional Development (DRD) have invited applications from Councils in Northern Ireland to bid for capital resources to implement active travel (cycling/walking) demonstration projects in their area. The budget is approximately £3 million available for bids from all councils, over the next three years (2012 to 2015) to support between three and six projects. Eligible projects should demonstrate innovation in sustainable travel through the implementation of a programme of measures to increase active travel.
1.2	It was agreed to progress two potential projects as bids: North and West Belfast Active Travel routes and the Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme (infrastructure costs). The DRD deadline for the submission of applications is the 18 th May 2012

2.	Key Issues
2.1	BID 1- North and West Belfast Active Travel routes It is proposed to seek funding to develop cycle/walking infrastructure in North and West Belfast using Council parks, quieter residential streets and linking to existing cycle path infrastructure. The aim of the project is to focus on the areas of Belfast where cycle provision is currently poor and develop new continuous routes linking parks, communities, schools and the city centre. A map indicating the proposed routes is attached in Appendix 1.
2.2	The North Belfast proposal is to link the Waterworks Park with Alexandra Park and then connect to the National Cycle network at Clarendon Docks using quieter residential streets in inner north Belfast. The existing national cycle route will link to the city centre along the River Lagan.

2.3	<p>The physical works proposed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrade of the pedestrian crossing at the Cavehill Rd/Antrim Rd/Limestone Rd junction; - new signage and monitoring stations within Council parks and along the proposed route; - upgrades to entrances of Council parks to facilitate pedestrian and cycle access; - new cycle path provision linking from Alexandra Park at Deacon Street to the National Cycle Network; - alterations to the pedestrian crossing at Limestone Rd/North Queen St junction; - additional cycle lane provision on lower Limestone Rd and a section of York St; and - new cycle/pedestrian crossing at Whitla Street.
2.4	<p>The West Belfast proposal will seek to link the Falls Park area through the Bog Meadows, then along the existing shared path beside the Westlink to the city centre (using the proposed dedicated cycleway as part of 'Belfast on the Move' on the Grosvenor Road).</p>
2.5	<p>The physical works proposed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new cycle path provision linking the Falls Parks to the Upper Springfield Rd existing cycle path; - relocation of pedestrian crossing on the Falls Road at Falls Park; - additional cycle/pedestrian provision linking Milltown Row/ Bog Meadows to the Westlink existing shared path; and - additional signage and new monitoring stations.
2.6	<p>Site visits and meetings have taken place with representatives from Sustrans and Road Service to assess the potential of the proposed routes and the feedback from these consultations has been positive. The cost for the physical works in Bid 1 is estimated at £650,000. Further assessment of the costs will be carried out with Parks Department and the Roads Service prior to the submission of the bid.</p>
2.7	<p>BID 2 - Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme The Public Bike Hire scheme is included in the Draft Investment Programme. This submission builds on work commissioned by the Strategic Investment Board. The Outline Business Case suggests that a public bike hire scheme could be viable for Belfast based on experiences in other cities.</p>
2.8	<p>A bid to DRD under Active Travel could meet the infrastructure costs thereby reducing the financial commitment for any public bike hire project to the annual running costs. The infrastructure bid would however need to be linked to an agreement or commitment to meet ongoing revenue costs.</p>
2.9	<p>A crucial element of a bid for the infrastructure, would be the ability for the Council to reassure DRD that it would be able to deliver the Public Bike Hire Scheme through the development of the infrastructure; engagement of an operator and provision to cover ongoing revenues costs.</p>
2.10	<p>The approach to ongoing management; the costs for operating the scheme and procurement of an operator are the subject of further study. The consultants who carried out the Outline Business Case are in the process of carrying out further work on these issues.</p>

2.11	<p>The outline business case provided estimates of the infrastructure cost for the scheme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure cost for 30 docking stations and 300 bikes - £628,500 - Infrastructure cost for 50 docking stations and 500 bikes - £1m <p>The application for Bid 2 will reflect the costs outlined in the Business Case however further assessment is needed on the appropriate scale of the scheme.</p>
2.12	<p>It should be noted that the opportunities to link the cycle path development and the bike hire project with nearby schools and communities will be developed as part of the proposal. The additional consultancy work will seek to identify opportunities for funding or other resources towards the ongoing costs of the projects. The work to develop the route options for West and North has sought to ensure maintenance and future operational costs are incorporated within existing management arrangements.</p>

3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
3.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

4.	Recommendations
4.1	It is recommended that Members consider the two proposed Active Travel project bids and if appropriate agree for submission to the DRD Active Travel Demonstration projects fund.

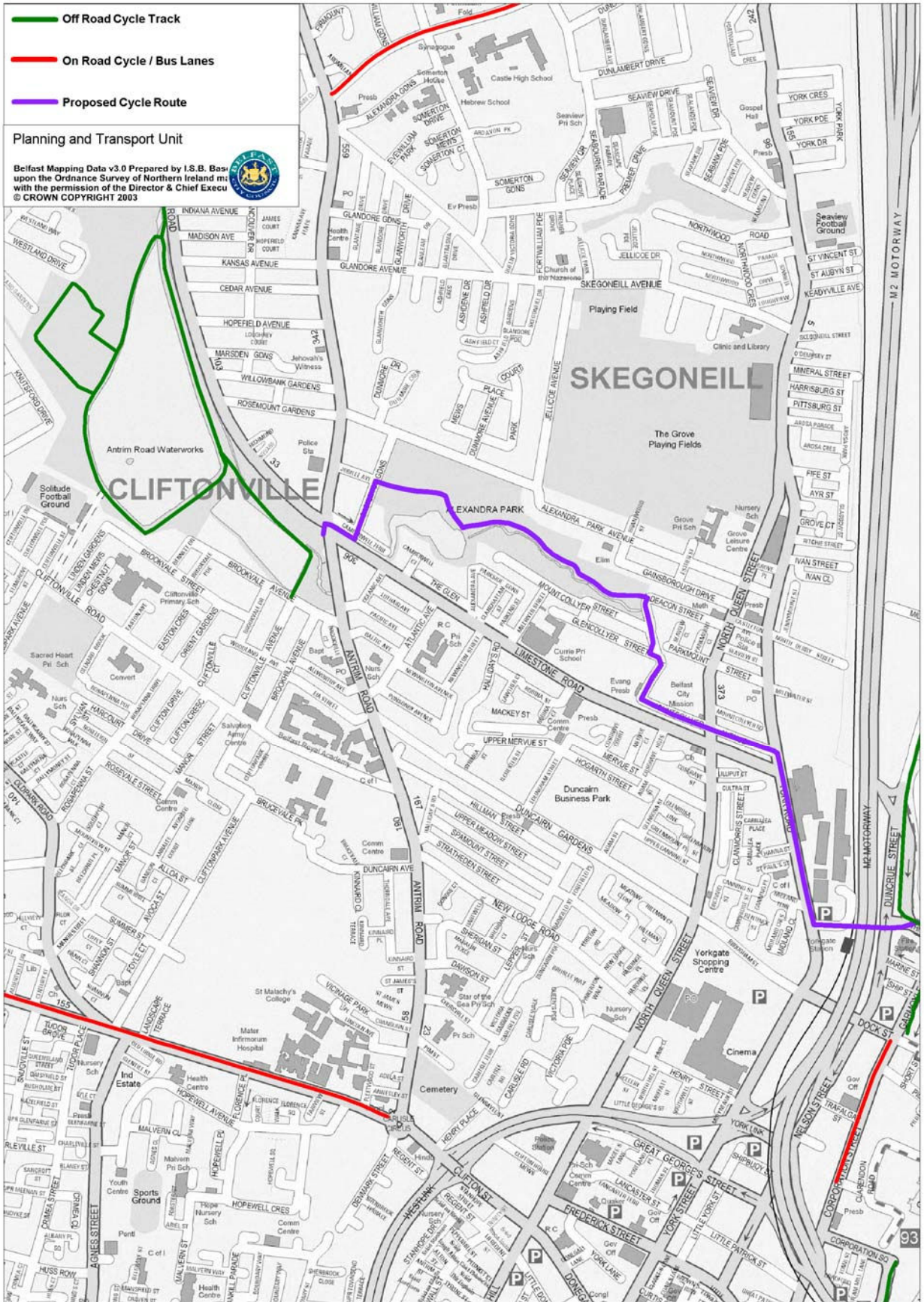
6.	Decision Tracking
Submit bid to DRD by May 2012	
Timeframe:	May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Keith Sutherland

7.	Key to Abbreviations
DRD - Department for Regional Development	

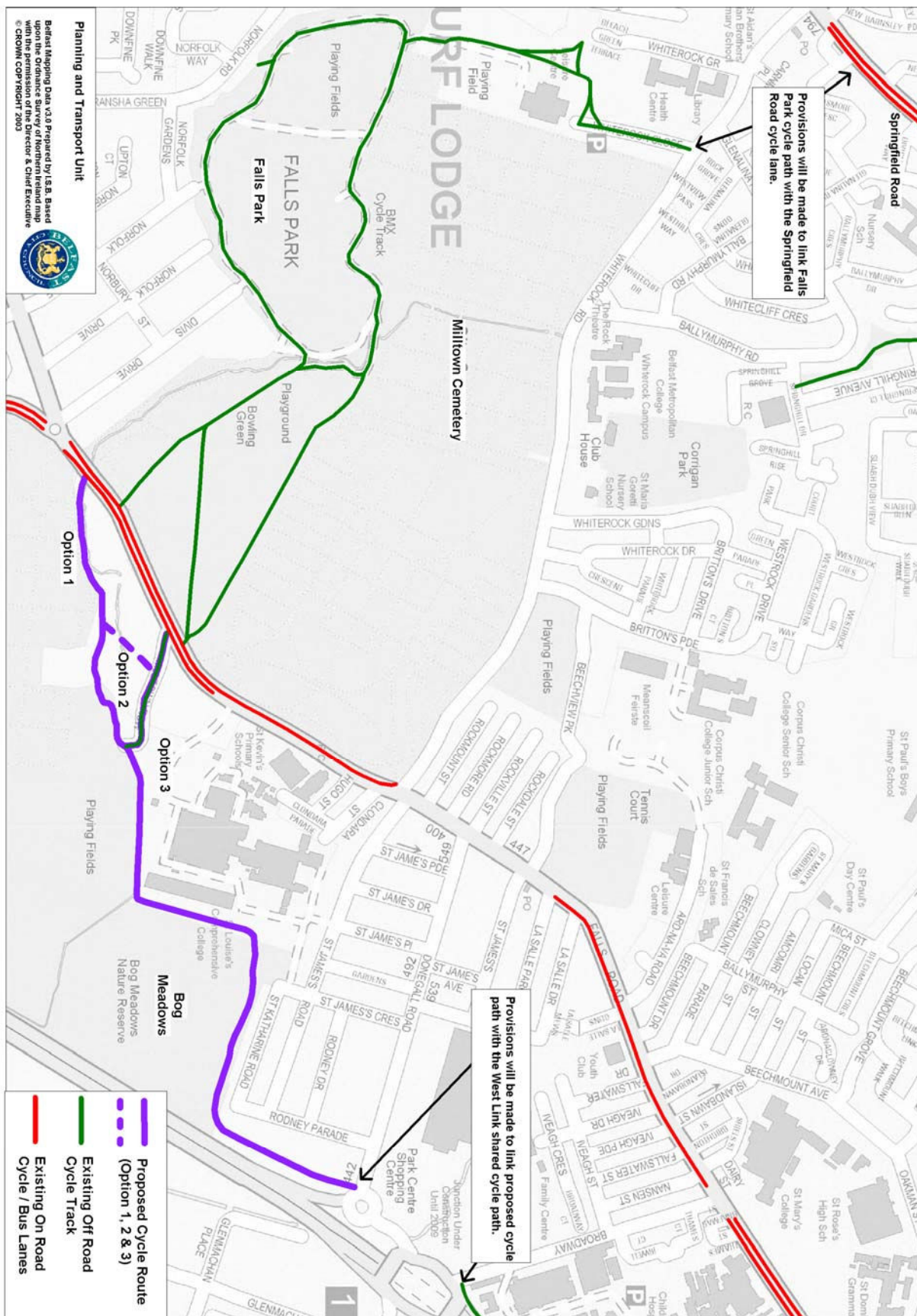
8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 North & West Belfast proposed routes	

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Appendix 1
North Belfast Proposal



West Belfast Proposal





Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Ainsworth Community Association
Date:	17 April 2012
Reporting Officer:	Catherine Taggart Community Development Manager ext 3525
Contact Officer:	Jenny Oliver Community Services Unit Manager ext 3542

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Ainsworth Community Centre is located at 117 Mayo Street BT13 3AZ. Since the 1970s the centre has been locally managed by Ainsworth Community Association with the premises and land vested in Trustees by virtue of an Assignment of Lease dated 17 January 1975. The Association was funded under revenue and small grants by the Council for more than 25 years.
1.2	The Community & Leisure Sub Committee 29 November 2005 approved a Deed of Covenant and Charge by which the Council made a grant of £11,000 to the Association towards the expenditure to be incurred to complete the construction of a new community centre. Subsequent to this the Service continued to be in contact with the Association but indications were that the total funding package for the new build had yet to be achieved and work not yet commenced.
1.3	In late spring 2008 a site visit carried out due to non return of revenue grant monitoring information 2007/8 indicated that the Centre had permanently closed. Subsequent contact with the Secretary of the Association confirmed the current condition of the building had required closure but the hope was that a rebuild programme would still be achieved. At some stage subsequent to this the Association appeared to cease to exist.
1.4	In late 2011 the Service was invited to attend an interagency group established in the Ainsworth area and convened by Councillor Kingston. The group aim is to improve/ regenerate of the area specifically in regard to local services and community safety. Group membership is made up of PSNI, NIHE, BRO, local residents and representatives of a number of community organisations within the Greater Shankill area. A current focus of the group is the need for the demolition of the existing centre which is significantly deteriorated and development in due course of a new facility. BRO have indicated that they will make funding available for a feasibility study but there is not yet a specific timescale or funding source for a new build programme. A survey has also been carried out in the area in

	regard to the needs of young people.
1.5	As a consequence of this initiative a public meeting of local residents was held 25 January 2012 which resulted in Ainsworth Community Association being reformed and constituted. This new Association will drive forward current plans for the area.

2	Key Issues
2.1	DSD have written to the Council 14 February 2012 confirming that they plan to vest the property with a view to its demolition and seeking the Council's view in regard to the existence of the Deed and Covenant registered against the property. BRO have received a letter from the Trustees confirming consent to the community centre being vested and acceptance of the statutory evaluation of around £40K. This payment will be made to the Trustees as owners of the land and building.
2.2	Legal Services advice in regard to the Deed and Covenant indicates that there is an ability for the Council to recoup the grant awarded given that the project was never commenced. Legal have also confirmed their intention to write to DSD to register a Caution against the property in respect of the Deed of Covenant and Charge.
2.3	The Trustees have confirmed that when payment has been generated in terms of vesting this will be used to clear bank debts (£14,000) and a possible outstanding debt for caretaking duties (£5,000) and they are aware that there may be a requirement to repay the Council grant awarded under the Deed and Covenant. They confirm that all remaining funds will be transferred to the new Ainsworth Community Association to support delivery of their plans for the area.
2.4	DSD have advertised the Notice of Intention to Vest in three Belfast papers on 29 th March and 5 th April 2012. There is a 28 day objection period, which commences from 5 th April 2012.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The Deed of Covenant and Charge agreed a grant ward of £11,000 towards the expenditure to be incurred to complete a new building.
3.2	The Trustees have indicated an ability to repay the £11,000 to Council the source of which will be the income generated from vesting of the site

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
There are no Equality or Good Relations issues.	

5	Recommendations
That Members consider whether they wish Council to seek to recoup the monies registered under the Deed of Covenant and Charge and if so, that DSD and the Trustees are advised of this decision without delay.	

6	Decision tracking
Agreed action to be completed by 31 May 2012 by Catherine Taggart (CDM)	
7	Key to Abbreviations
D.S.D. – Department of Development B.R.O. – Belfast Regeneration Office	

8	Documents Attached
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minutes of the Community & Leisure Sub Committee 29 November 2005 (Appendix A)2. Deed of Covenant and Charge dated 22 May 2006 (Appendix B)3. Correspondence from DSD dated 14 February 2012 (Appendix C)	

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C **Community and Recreation (Community and Leisure Services)**
462 **Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 29th November, 2005**

After discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed that Clarawood Community Association's revenue application in respect of the year 2006/2007 be reassessed and that a further report in respect of the recommendations thereon be submitted to the Sub-Committee for its consideration in due course.

**Community Services: Department for
Social Development Grant Aid**

The Sub-Committee noted that the Department for Social Development, through the Voluntary and Community Unit, had advised that the Council would be receiving grant aid in the current financial year in the sum of £1,102,258, which represented an increase of 1.76% on the previous year. It was noted also that the Department had indicated that additional funding might be available during the current year following the launch of the Regional Advice and Information Strategy and the Head of Community and Leisure Services undertook to provide a further report in this regard when details of the additional funds were made available from the Department.

**Ainsworth Community Association:
Proposed Grant**

The Sub-Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th October, it had agreed, in principle, to provide funding in the sum of £11,000 to the Ainsworth Community Association to enable its development plans to be progressed, subject the group meeting the appropriate criteria and the funds being available from within the existing Departmental Budget.

The Head of Community and Leisure Services reported that the Association had been requested to provide additional information regarding the timescale and the funding of its development plans and had been asked to confirm whether or not the grant would be used to clear the Association's existing debt or to facilitate the development of the new/refurbished community centre. He pointed out that, in order to identify the best way in which to safeguard the Council's interest, the Director of Legal Services had recommended that a legal agreement be drawn up, including the provision for a legal charge secured by a "Deed of Covenant and Charge".

The Head of Community and Leisure Services confirmed that, following a review of the current year's Community Services budget, £11,000 could be made available for the Ainsworth Community Association.

After discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed that the terms of the grant to Ainsworth Community Association in the sum of £11,000 include the following:

- (a) that the purpose of the grant would be to enable the Association to construct a new or refurbished community centre;
- (b) that the Council had the right to reclaim the grant if the purpose had not been fulfilled within a period of three years from the date of the formal legal agreement being signed, that is, construction is to have commenced; and

- (c) that the Council's position be protected through verification of the position with the Association and its Bank and through a legal charge secured by a "Deed of Covenant and Charge".

Templemore Swim Centre Restoration

The Sub-Committee was informed that Alister Coey, Architects, who had been appointed to manage the restoration scheme at Templemore Swim Centre, would be holding a stakeholders meeting on Thursday, 8th December at 2.00 p.m. and had requested that two representatives of the Council be invited to attend.

After discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Long, together with an appropriate officer from the Department, attend the aforementioned stakeholders meeting.

Capital Programme

The Sub-Committee considered the undernoted Draft Capital Programme for the Community and Leisure Services Section:

"Purpose of Report

To consider the draft Capital Programme for Community & Leisure Services.

Background

Council's Capital Programme for 2005-06 and future commitments was agreed at a special meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 4 February 2005.

Current situation

An updated programme of capital schemes has been developed and is attached as Appendix A.

Resources

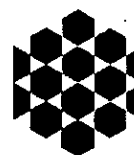
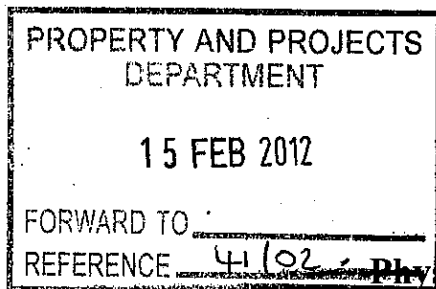
The cost of each scheme is set out in the Appendix.

Environmental impact

Environmental issues will be considered as part of each development.

Equality impact

There are no relevant equality considerations.



Department for
**Social
Development**
www.dsdni.gov.uk

**Physical Development Branch
Belfast Regeneration Office**

James House
Gasworks Business Park
2-4 Cromac Avenue
Ormeau Road
Belfast, BT7 2JA
Telephone: 028 90819650
Fax: 028 90819823
E-mail: patricia.mckay@dsdni.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref: CDB/28/2/08
Date: 14th February 2012

Mr Ken Anderson
Property & Projects
Belfast City Council
Adelaide Exchange
BELFAST
BT2 8GD

Dear Ken,

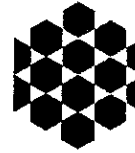
**RE: AINSWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 117 AINSWORTH AVENUE,
BELFAST**

I refer to the above-named property.

The Department are considering vesting the property due to its dilapidated state and the fact that the premises are being used as a focal point for drugs use and anti-social behaviour by youths.

I attach a copy of a Deed of Covenant and Charge between Ainsworth Community Centre and Belfast City Council. I would be grateful if you would consider the Covenant and advise if you would have any objections to the vesting of the property by the Department.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.



Yours sincerely

Patricia McKay

PATRICIA MCKAY

MA 297

Dated this 22 Day of May 2006

501-216-6-CC

AINSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

and

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

DEED OF COVENANT AND CHARGE

Ciaran Quigley
Director of Legal Services
City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

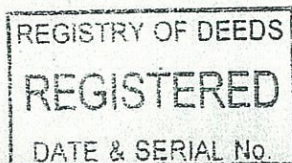
THIS INDENTURE is made the day of Two thousand and Six BETWEEN AINSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION of 117 Mayo Street, Belfast BT13 3AZ (hereinafter called "the Association") the present Trustees of which are Mr Lewis West of 7 Brown Square Belfast, Mr Thomas Jackson Hewitt of 36 Dhu Varren Park and Thomas Aiken of 8 Crossland Court, Belfast (hereinafter called 'the Trustee's') of the one part and BELFAST CITY COUNCIL of City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS (hereinafter called 'the Council') of the other part.

WHEREAS

1. By virtue of an Assignment of Lease dated 17th January 1975 made between Samuel Smith of the one part and Thomas Jackson Hewitt, John Harris and Lewis West, the then Trustees of the Association of the other part the Premises described in the Schedule hereto were assigned to the Purchaser's therein for the residue of the term of 999 years under a Lease dated 20th day of September 1964 between the Trustees of Hugh Henry Boyd's Endowment Belfast of the one part and J & W.C. Gaw Limited of the other part (hereinafter called 'the Lease').
2. The Premises are now vested in the Trustees.
3. The Trustees have applied to the Council under the provisions of the Recreation and Youth Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 for a grant towards the expenditure to be incurred by the Trustees to complete the construction of a new Community Centre ("the Project") on the Premises to facilitate its use as a Community Facility.

The Council is satisfied that the said expenditure is to be incurred by the Trustees in furtherance of the intent to complete the construction of a new Community Centre to facilitate its use as a community facility and the Council has accordingly agreed to make a grant to the Trustees towards the said expenditure subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter appearing and the expression the "grant" for the purposes of this deed shall mean the current approved expenditure of £11,000.00 or such other sum or sums as shall be actually advanced by the Council in connection therewith.

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that in pursuance of the said agreement and in consideration of the Grant to be made to the Trustees out of the moneys provided in accordance with the said Order the Trustees do hereby jointly and severally covenant with the Council in manner following:-



- a) To use the Premises for the purpose of a Community Centre and for no other purpose whatsoever.
- (b) Not to use the Premises or any part thereof for the benefit of any particular religious body or political grouping.
- (c) To observe and perform all the covenants and conditions contained in the documents of title under which the Premises are held, and in particular the documents of title set forth at paragraph 1 hereof.
- (d) To expend the Grant for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned and for no other purpose.
- (e) To commence the construction of the Community Centre within three years from the date of this deed.
- (f) To permit the Council its officers and employees at all reasonable times to enter upon the Premises or any part thereof to inspect the same and the various activities carried on therein and the state of repair of the Premises and to repair and make good all defects of which notice shall be given by the Council to the Trustees within three calendar months of the giving of such notice.
- (g) To insure the Premises against loss or damage by fire for a sum equal to the full value thereof in the name of the Trustees with a reputable Insurance Company and to keep the same so insured and upon the request of the Council from time to time to produce to the Council the policy of such insurance and the receipt for the then current year's premium and if the Premises or any part thereof shall be destroyed or damaged by fire forthwith to expend the monies received under such insurance or so much thereof as the Council may require in rebuilding or reinstating the same to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council.
- (h) To prosecute with due diligence any claim arising under statute or otherwise in respect of damage to the Premises caused unlawfully wantonly or maliciously and forthwith to apply any sum recovered under such claim in or towards rebuilding or reinstating the Premises to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council or at the option of the Trustees to repay to the Council the said sum or such part thereof (not exceeding the amount of the Grant) as the Council may require together with interest thereon in accordance with the provisions of the next succeeding covenant.

- (i) To obtain all requisite consents and to comply with all notices, orders and obligations issued, made or imposed under or by virtue of any statutory enactment with regards to the condition of the Premises or the use thereof.
- (j) To secure all necessary funding to meet the cost of the Project and to forthwith give notice to the Council in the event that the Trustees should become aware of:-
 - (i) Any threat to the Project due to withdrawal of other funders;
 - (ii) Any substantial deterioration in the financial position of the Committee;
 - (iii) That the said Project has been jeopardised as to its future continuance;
 - (iv) The Association becomes insolvent or go into a position of potential insolvency (including any actual or threatened liquidation, creditor's agreement, receivership or creditor's judgement).
- (k) To keep and maintain proper legal and financial controls in place to receive and administer the Grant and retain all accounting and other records relating to the Project in a secure place.
- (l) That if all or any of the covenants conditions and agreements herein contained shall not be duly performed and observed then in any such case or cases if so required by the Council to repay to the Council on demand the whole or such portion of the Grant as the Council may require together with interest thereon at the rate equivalent to that determined from time to time in accordance with Paragraph 18 of Schedule 6 to the Local Government Act (N.I.) 1972 such interest to commence to run after the expiration of one month from the date of demand by the Council provided that the liability of the Trustees to repay the Grant shall be reduced by one tenth of the total amount of the Grant for each complete year in which the said covenants and conditions shall have been duly performed and observed.

NOW THIS INDENTURE FURTHER WITNESSETH that for the consideration aforesaid the Trustees do hereby charge the Premises with the repayment to the Council of the Grant or such portion or portions thereof as shall be lawfully demanded by the Council under the provisions in that behalf hereinbefore contained together with interest thereon at the rate hereinbefore described. **AND** the Trustees hereby accordingly consent to the registration of the said Charge and Covenant as a burden on the Premises.

PROVIDED ALWAYS AND IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND DECLARED by and between the parties hereto as follows:-

- (1) That the Constitution and Rules of the Association and any amendments thereto shall be subject to the prior approval of the Council and that eligibility to enjoy the facilities of the Premises shall not be restricted on denominational grounds or made conditional on denominational religious observances.
- (2) That the Trustees shall not without the consent of the Council first had and obtained sell lease mortgage or otherwise dispose of the Premises or any part thereof **PROVIDED HOWEVER** that the Trustees shall have power with the consent of the Council first had and obtained to sell or dispose of the Premises or any part thereof freed and discharged from the covenants and conditions herein contained and in such manner as the Trustees shall think fit but upon any such sale or disposal the Trustees shall if so required by the Council repay to the Council the Grant or such part thereof as the Council may require.
- (3) That no appointment of a new trustee or new trustees shall be made without the prior written consent of the Council and copies of all Deeds of Appointment of New Trustees shall be delivered up to the Council.
- (4) Provided that the Trustees have observed and performed the covenants on their part and conditions herein contained, then at the expiration of ten years from the date of the last payment of the Grant by the Council the said covenants and conditions shall cease to have effect.

IN WITNESS whereof the Trustees have set their hands and affixed their Seals and the Common Seal of **BELFAS CITY COUNCIL** has been hereunto affixed the day and year first herein **WRITTEN**.

SCHEDULE

The Premises comprised in the Lease and therein described as: -

"All that piece or parcel of ground situate on the West side of Mayo Street in the City or County Borough of Belfast containing in front to Mayo Street aforesaid 86 feet three inches or thereabouts in the rere or west side 86 feet three inches or thereabouts and extending backwards from front to rere on the North side seventy-six feet six inches or thereabouts and on the South side seventy-six feet six inches or thereabouts be all or any of the said several admeasurements more or less Bounded on the front or East side by Mayo Street aforesaid on the rere or West side by Ainsworth Avenue on the North side by premises in the ownership of the Lessor and on the South side by premises known as number Mayo Street and all which said piece or parcel of ground is more particularly delineated and described on the map or ground plan thereof hereon endorsed and thereon surrounded by a red line TOGETHER with the school house and outbuildings erected thereon and known as No.117 Mayo Street Belfast aforesaid".

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by)
the said TRUSTEES all in the
presence of:

John C. McA MLA)
921 Crumlin Road)
BT14 8AB)

Marion)
29 Seaburne Pde)
BT15 3NP)

[Signature] T.S. HEWITT
[Signature] T.A. AICKEN
[Signature] LOUIS WEST

PRESENT when the Common Seal of
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
was affixed hereto:-

J. Patrick Conroy
LORD MAYOR

[Signature]
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Common Seal of Belfast City Council



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Consultation: £15M Big Lottery Supporting Families
Date	17 April 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	David Purchase, Policy Officer, ext 3792

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Council has been asked to respond to this online consultation which is a follow up to the Big Thinking consultation in 2008/09. The Big Lottery now want to develop a programme of support to address the needs of families. Their proposals involve a £15M open programme from 2012 - 2015. It will provide funding for up to 5 years to support activities that develop the skills of families with children under the age of 12 to provide supportive and nurturing relationships to improve children's lives. Grants will be between £100k-£500k to fund mainly revenue activity.
1.2	The aim of the programme is that 'families will be enabled to provide supportive and nurturing relationships to improve their children's lives.'
1.3	It will deliver the following outcomes:
1.4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Families will have improved resilience to overcome adversity 2. Families will have increased opportunities to learn together 3. Families will be enabled to participate in all aspects of community life.
1.5	<p>It will help to address challenges families may face including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical and/or emotional abuse - poverty - substance/alcohol abuse - disability - homelessness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - separation - social isolation - caring.
1.6	The Full proposal is attached as appendix 1.
1.7	Comments are required to be submitted using an online form by the 4th May 2012.
1.8	The consultations document was distributed to officers across Council and their responses have been included in the provisional draft response attached as appendix 2.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The document is an overview paper rather than a detailed programme. Responses to the document will inform the design of future programmes and ensure funding makes a difference to the communities and people most in need.
2.2	As an online survey has been used, we have to limit the size of our responses. The specific questions are:
2.3	<p>Q.1 Do you think the programme aim best reflects the needs of families in Northern Ireland?</p> <p>Q.1b If no, what do you think the most important aim is to support the needs of families in Northern Ireland?</p> <p>Q.2 Do you think the programme outcomes best reflect the needs of families in Northern Ireland?</p> <p>Q.2b If no, what do you think the most important outcomes are for families in Northern Ireland?</p> <p>Q.3 We are proposing that this programme should support families facing challenges such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical and/or emotional abuse - poverty - substance/alcohol abuse - disability - homelessness - separation - social isolation - caring <p>Do you agree with our definition of the challenges that a family may face?</p> <p>Q.3b If no, what other factors should be included?</p> <p>Q.4 Do you agree that this programme should support families with a child/children younger than 12 years of age?</p> <p>Q.4b If no, what age range would you suggest?</p> <p>Q.5 Should we encourage and support partnership working and collaboration across sectors?</p> <p>Q.6 Do you think the proposed grant sizes of £100,000 - £500,000 are appropriate?</p> <p>Q.6b If no, what is the appropriate grant size?</p> <p>Q.7 Do you think the proposed grant length of three to five years is appropriate?</p> <p>Q.7b If no, what is the appropriate grant length?</p> <p>Q.8 How can we ensure the projects we fund involve families in project design, development and delivery?</p>

2.4	<p>Q.9 Are there any further comments you wish to make about our proposed programme to support families?</p> <p>In general the proposals seem sensible and supportive of many of the Council's existing priorities. The proposals may benefit from specific reference to the difficulties faced by families in interface areas and to stress the importance of longer term programmes.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no negative equality or good relations implications.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the draft BCC response to the consultation and raise any additional issues, relating to the consultation document, that they would like to be included.

	Decision Tracking
Timeline:	4th May 2012
	Reporting Officer: David Purchase

	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 "Consultation Draft Response £15M Big Lottery Supporting Families"</p> <p>Appendix 2 "Supporting Families" Big Lottery Fund 2012.</p>

Appendix 1

Consultation Draft Response £15M Big Lottery Supporting Families

Q1. Do you think the programme aim best reflects the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Yes.

Q.1b If no, what do you think the most important aim is to support the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Q.2 Do you think the programme outcomes best reflect the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

No

Q.2b If no, what do you think the most important outcomes are for families in Northern Ireland?

Outcome 2 should be widened to read “opportunities to learn and develop together”. The use of the word “learn” on its own may lead people to think of formal educational issues and attainment only whereas the focus should be on the wider development of the family and young person. There may also be scope for including reference to the opportunities to engage with and better understand different communities (see our reference to interface areas for questions 3b).

Q.3 We are proposing that this programme should support families facing challenges such as:

- physical and/or emotional abuse
- poverty
- substance/alcohol abuse
- disability
- homelessness
- separation
- social isolation
- caring

Do you agree with our definition of the challenges that a family may face?

No

Q.3b If no, what other factors should be included?

The legacy of the Troubles and those living in or near interface areas should be highlighted as a particular challenge. There is much evidence to show that those living in interface areas are more likely to be in poverty, with lower levels of educational attainment etc. Social isolation is mentioned as a factor, and whilst this could perhaps fall under this heading, given the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland, it is important to recognise the importance and impact of good relations on our society. Although there are many programmes designed to help in the transition from conflict, the impact on families particularly those at interface areas should still be acknowledged. BIG may want to give some thought as to how a family centred approach, such as that being proposed under this scheme, could work hand in hand with other funding streams and

initiatives (for example, that are targeted at interface communities) to provide a more joined up and intensive level of support.

Q.4 Do you agree that this programme should support families with a child/children younger than 12 years of age?

Yes.

Q.4b If no, what age range would you suggest?

Q.5 Should we encourage and support partnership working and collaboration across sectors?

Leading on from our comment about interface areas, yes it is important that this funding promotes collaboration and partnership working. There are many initiatives that would benefit from intensive work with families – but often this level of intensive support is too expensive and time-consuming, therefore efforts instead focus on wider programmes or universal type activities. It would be helpful if this funding could promote partnership working and actually encourage the joining-up of funding, resources and initiatives so that macro and micro level activity can take place collaboratively.

Q.6 Do you think the proposed grant sizes of £100,000 - £500,000 are appropriate?

Yes.

Q.6b If no, what is the appropriate grant size?

Q.7 Do you think the proposed grant length of three to five years is appropriate?

No

Q.7b If no, what is the appropriate grant length?

Belfast communities we have engaged with on Lottery and other grant schemes have raised concerns about the short term approach to some funding and the number of pilot initiatives. The opportunity for 5 year funding streams would be welcome, but steps should also be taken well before the funding comes to an end to look at transitioning or mainstreaming successful projects. The Greater Shankill and West Belfast Integrated Services for Children and Young People would be a prime example. Given the nature of this support / funding it will take time to build up the relationships and rapport with families in order to make a real difference; funding should therefore be for a minimum of 3 years.

Q.8 How can we ensure the projects we fund involve families in project design, development and delivery?

It could be a requirement of funding that projects include representatives from families (ideally those in the programme). It should also be a requirement that participating families are able to comment on the programme during its life and at its end. This could be through a standard and not overly complicated survey form. This could form part of any annual monitoring and would ensure lessons are learnt and projects amended as necessary. A permanent 'families forum' could be funded and established to comment on future projects during the life of the overall programme.

Q.9 Are there any further comments you wish to make about our proposed programme to support families?

Generally we would be supportive of this scheme as it fits with the Council's ethos of improving quality of life and many of our supporting corporate objectives and activities. The focus on family should provide a much needed "people-centred" approach and, as it is built around the core societal concept of family, it should provide a much more targeted and holistic approach to helping address need. The focus on early years (support and intervention), particularly within the context of a family setting, is a theme which emerges regularly in our engagement processes. We would therefore welcome any funding that helps provide that holistic and micro level support.



Forward

Big Lottery Fund wants to focus on those most in need. As an intelligent funder, we will continue to support people projects and programmes that make a real difference and impact across Northern Ireland.

I am delighted to introduce the Northern Ireland consultation on BIG Proposals for Supporting Families in Northern Ireland. We will be out and about across Northern Ireland over the coming months inviting people to respond to our ideas on how we can best deliver our new programme.

Big Thinking consultation supported the need for a programme to benefit families. This need is evidenced by local, national and international research into a range of support services highlighting the particular challenges faced by families. We now wish to develop a programme to support the needs of these families.

We want to ask you about a new proposed programme for Northern Ireland Supporting Families including the programme outcomes, programme delivery and the target beneficiary group. Our consultation launches on 13 February 2012 and will run until 4 May 2012. We are holding meetings across Northern Ireland to discuss these proposals and encourage responses, as well as providing an online survey available at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland

Consultation responses are invaluable in helping us design programmes which ensure that our funding makes a difference to communities and people most in need. We will use social media to promote the consultation and the availability of the online survey to ensure the consultation is open and accessible to a wide range of relevant stakeholders

I hope that you will respond to the consultation questionnaire and engage in events relating to this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Frank Hewitt
Chair, Northern Ireland Committee

Supporting Families

Following our Big Thinking consultation in 2008/09 we launched a range of programmes in Northern Ireland between March 2010 and January 2011:

- ▶ Reaching Out: Connecting Older People
- ▶ Reaching Out: Empowering Young People
- ▶ Healthy Minds
- ▶ Energy Efficient Venues
- ▶ Space and Place
- ▶ Impact of Alcohol

We also published our Strategic Framework 2009–2015 setting out our funding plans. In line with our intelligent funding principles we are refreshing these priorities so that they better match our changing external environment.

Why a families programme?

Responses to our 2008/09 consultation, Big Thinking, referred to the needs of families in Northern Ireland. In particular, the consultation highlighted the need to:

- invest in early years and parents support
- to invest in the birth to 8 year old age group with early intervention work being key as a preventative strategy
- to target younger children tied in with whole family support of vulnerable families, and
- the importance of including families as part of the solution to young people issues.

Families throughout Northern Ireland have benefited from BIG grants valued at just over £20 million. We have learned from the demand for Building Quality Childcare, Change Ur Future, Reaching Out: Empowering Young People and from Big Thinking that there is a continuing need for innovative programmes for children and young people, particularly with a focus on early intervention.

This programme will link to a number of strategies including, Families Matters, The Child Poverty Strategy, Care Matters NI, Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge, and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are proposing to focus this new programme on families with children under age 12. We define families in the broadest terms to include: parents/ carers; grandparents; or siblings. This focus will complement our current Reaching Out: Empowering Young People programme.

Supporting Families Programme Aim and Outcomes

Aim: Families will be enabled to provide supportive and nurturing relationships to improve their children's lives.

The aim will be supported by the following outcomes:-

1. Families will have improved resilience to overcome adversity
2. Families will have increased opportunities to learn together
3. Families will be enabled to participate in all aspects of community life.

Our proposed beneficiaries

We plan to focus our support on families who are facing multiple challenges. Some of the challenges a family's face may include:

- physical and/or emotional abuse
- poverty
- substance/alcohol abuse
- disability
- homelessness
- separation
- social isolation
- caring.

Delivery model

We plan to deliver a £15 million open programme from 2012 to 2015. We propose that under this programme we will provide funding for up to 5 years for activities that develop the skills of families to function as a unit and provide strong supportive and nurturing relationships for their children. We plan to make grants of £100,000 – £500,000 to fund mostly revenue activities which support the programme outcomes.

We are seeking your views on Supporting Families

Q.1 Do you think the programme aim best reflects the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Yes No

Q.1b If no, what do you think the most important aim is to support the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Q.2 Do you think the programme outcomes best reflect the needs of families in Northern Ireland?

Yes No

Q.2b If no, what do you think the most important outcomes are for families in Northern Ireland?

Q.3 We are proposing that this programme should support families facing challenges such as:

- physical and/or emotional abuse
- poverty
- substance/alcohol abuse
- disability
- homelessness
- separation
- social isolation
- caring

Do you agree with our definition of the challenges that a family may face?

Yes No

Q.3b If no, what other factors should be included?

Q.4 Do you agree that this programme should support families with a child/children younger than 12 years of age?

Yes No

Q.4b If no, what age range would you suggest?

Q.5 Should we encourage and support partnership working and collaboration across sectors?

Yes No

Q.6 Do you think the proposed grant sizes of £100,000 - £500,000 are appropriate?

Yes No

Q.6b If no, what is the appropriate grant size?

Q.7 Do you think the proposed grant length of three to five years is appropriate?

Yes No

Q.7b If no, what is the appropriate grant length?

Q.8 How can we ensure the projects we fund involve families in project design, development and delivery?

Q.9 Are there any further comments you wish to make about our proposed programme to support families?

To make a response

This document and the questions asked are available online at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland

This consultation will close on 4 May 2012. A summary of the consultation responses will be published and will inform the development of our new funding programme. We plan to launch this Northern Ireland programme at the end of 2012. All responses will be treated in confidence.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please send your completed consultation documents to:

Big Lottery Fund
1 Cromac Quay
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JD

Phone: 028 9055 1455

Textphone: 028 9055 1431

Fax: 028 9055 1455

Email: enquiries.ni@biglotteryfund.org.uk

If you have any questions or if you would like further copies of this document contact the information team at the number or address above.