

# People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 10th August, 2021

## MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Cobain (Chairperson);  
Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors Baker, Black, Bunting, Corr,  
de Faoite, Flynn, M. Kelly, Magee, McAteer,  
Mulholland, Newton, Smyth and Verner.

Also attended: Councillor O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services;  
Mrs. C. Mathews, Director of Resources and Fleet;  
Mrs. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Michael Collins, Garrett, McCusker, McReynolds and Pankhurst.

### **Condolences**

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, extended condolences to Councillor Pankhurst on the recent death of his grandfather.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 8th and 22nd June were taken as read and signed as correct.

It was reported that the minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st July, subject to the following amendment to the 8th June minute:

### **Rosario Youth Club - Funding Request**

At the request of Councillor Gormley, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the August meeting of the People and Communities Committee, asking the Committee to consider allocating additional funding to cover the months of April, May and June 2021 in respect of Rosario Youth Club.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Smyth declared an interest in item 2 (a) Partner Agreement – Ulidia Playing Fields, in that he was a Member of its Steering Committee and he left the meeting whilst the matter was under consideration.

The following Members declared an interest in item 2 (b) in relation to the Community Provision Grant Funding 2021/22. All Members left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

- Alderman Copeland, in that her daughter was a Director of the Greater Village Regeneration Trust;
- Councillor Black, on the basis that she managed the Grosvenor Community Centre;
- Councillor Verner, in that she was an employee of the Greater Shankill Partnership (Spectrum Centre); and
- Councillor Corr, in that he was an employee of Falls Community Council.

**Restricted**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following 4 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the Members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion on the following 3 items as, due to their nature, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Partner Agreement - Ulidia Playing Fields**

Further to the decision at the 1st July meeting of Council, the Committee considered a report regarding allocating additional financial support to retrospectively cover staffing costs for the months of April, May and June 2021 in respect of Rosario Youth Club (in addition to the contribution which had been paid under their Partnership Agreement).

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd June 2021, it had agreed to award Rosario Youth Club a payment, to a maximum of £2,000 per month (pending a long-term lease being achieved), with effect from 1st July 2021.

The Committee was advised that the Club had intended to write to the Council at an earlier date to request an extension to this funding but due to an error this had not been done. The Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that Rosario Youth Club had advised that they had provided the service and incurred the costs during this period and could provide full documentation and vouching of such.

Following a query from a Member regarding the possibility of establishing a Partner agreement for Glentoran Youth Academy for the new Blanchflower Asset, the Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the existing Partner Agreements Policy had been established following an open Expression of Interest process in respect of the specific sites and that it had been for an initial period of five years, with the option to be extended for an additional period of two years and that it was now currently in year six.

He further advised that any new requests could be considered as part of a Community Asset Transfer process and confirmed that officers were preparing to submit further details on this for consideration in the Autumn.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to agree the request for additional support for Rosario Youth Club and to provide a

maximum financial payment of up to £2,000 per month for staff costs, subject to vouching of fully evidenced expenditure from April 2021 to June 2021.

**Community Provision Grant Funding 2021/22**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the Council had received a Letter of Offer) for 2021/22 from the Department for Communities, allocating £1,731,259.74 (which included additional Welfare Reform Mitigation Extensions), with some elements of the grant award being ring fenced, as detailed below:

Community Support General (Capacity, Revenue, Project)	£829,405.44
Advice Grant	£607,928.42
Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension Face to Face Award Advice	£223,525.88
Welfare Reform Mitigations Extension - Tribunal Representations	£70,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,731,259.74</b>

The Director drew the Members' attention to a detailed summary of the exact budget breakdown of financial commitments for the overall Community Grants Programme for 2021/22, as follows:

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>
Advice Grant (Generalist Advice)	£999,657.00
Advice Grant (Welfare Reform Face to Face)	£223,525.88
Capacity Building Grant	£1,021,336.12
Revenue for Community Buildings	£992,372.63
Independently Managed Community Centres	£362,746.00
Service Level Agreements	£37,709.00
Summer Scheme (now micro/medium grant and direct programming)	£169,726.10
Project Grants (now micro/medium grant and direct programming)	£30,965.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,838,037.73</b>

The Members noted that the ring-fenced allocation of £70,400 for Tribunal Representations was directly for services provided by Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service

and that the Letter of Offer stipulated that the Council would agree to contribute to local advice provision from its own resources of at least £391,729.00.

The Director referred specifically to the funding to the Play Resource Warehouse. He advised the Members that the Council had provided funding of £31,209.00 to Play Resource Warehouse under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for a number of years. The Council had recently received formal notification that the Play Resource Warehouse had formally merged with Bryson Energy and that Bryson Energy would continue with the arrangements agreed within the SLA.

The Committee was therefore asked to consider the transfer of the 2021/22 SLA for Play Resource Warehouse to Bryson Energy. If agreed, officers would work with Bryson Energy during 2021/22 to better understand the longer term development of the service which would be further considered by the Committee in Autumn 2021, along with the final recommendations from the previously agreed Review of Partnership Funding Arrangements.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

- award the funding allocation of £1,731,259.74 presented in the Letter of Offer from the DfC for the 2021/22 financial year and accept the offer on behalf of Council;
- accept the additional in-year allocations from the DfC relating to the Community Support Programme;
- grant officer authority to progress full annual allocations to all previously approved grant recipients, subject to associated due diligence requirements; and
- approve the transfer of the previous Play Resource Warehouse SLA to Bryson Energy on basis of same deliverables for 2021/22 only.

### **Request for the use of Boucher Road Playing Fields**

The Committee considered a request seeking permission to use the Boucher Road Playing Fields from 1st October – 17th October 2021 for the purpose of hosting a funfair event.

The Committee noted that Fundamania would be open to the public from 6.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m. Monday – Friday and 2.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Access to the site would be required two days prior to the official opening for setup and two days immediately following the event to allow for dismantling of the equipment.

It was estimated that there would be in the region of 500 attendees each day.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

grant authority to G Force Entertainment to hold a fairground event from Friday, 1st October to Sunday, 17th October 2021; and

Delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Council's Commercial Manager;
- negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' and 'take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to:
- the promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- compliance with Coronavirus restrictions in place at the time of the event; and
- the promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.

The Members noted that the above recommendations were taken as pre-policy position, in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which was currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Council's Commercial team.

### **Finance Update**

The Committee was presented with a report on the year-end financial position for 2020/21 which provided details of the available balances and the areas of expenditure which had been identified for 2021/22 and confirmed that, when those had been taken into account, £5.4 million would be available for re-allocation.

The Committee was reminded that, in 2018, the Council had agreed to establish a Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme, with £500k annually having been aside for its delivery. The Programme was targeted at activities taking place in July and August and the application process, which involved an open call, took between three and four months to complete. Given that the uncertainty around the Covid-19 restrictions, an open call had not been advertised for this year and the Members were advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 18th June 2021, had agreed that the Programme would be delivered later in the year, restrictions permitting.

Accordingly, Members of the Committee agreed to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

- note the contents of the report and approve the 2021/22 balances;
- agree that the year-end surplus of £5.4m be made available for re-allocation; and
- note that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed that the annual allocation of £500k for the Summer

Community Diversionary Festival Programme be retained, with a view to delivering the Programme later in the year.

**Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

**Response from Department for Communities  
re: Funding Advice Services**

The Democratic Services Officer reminded the Committee that, at its meeting held on 13th April, it had agreed to write to the Minister for Communities to seek further clarity in relation to the future funding for Advice Services.

She advised that a response had been received from Minister Hargey. In her response she had advised that Belfast City Council had been allocated £901,854.30 from the Department's Community Support Programme for 2021/22 and that a formal letter of offer would be issued.

The officer advised that, as reported earlier in the meeting, the formal Letter of Offer from the Department had been received.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive note the response.

**Committee/Strategic Issues**

**Update on DAERA consultation on  
the Designation of Quiet Areas**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware that on the 21st September 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) commenced consultation into the designation of an area of the Lagan Meadows as a 'Quiet Area', under the provisions of Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25th June 2002, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, more commonly referred to as the Environmental Noise Directive or END, and of Regulation 40 of the Environmental Noise (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2006, relating to the preparation of noise maps identifying quiet areas in agglomerations. END defines an agglomeration as 'part of a territory, delimited by the Member State, having a population in excess of 100,000 persons and a population density such that the Member State considers it to be an urbanised area'.
- 1.2 The People and Communities Committee considered this designation at its meeting of 11th October 2016 and subsequently provided a written consultation response to DAERA advising that the Committee welcomed and was supportive of designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area. Moreover, the Committee advised DAERA that it noted the public health and wider environmental benefits of

protecting appropriate Quiet Areas across Belfast and that council officers would continue to engage with the Department to help refine the screening criteria to be applied in subsequent rounds of Quiet Area identification and designation.

1.3 The DAERA consultation formally concluded on the 19th October 2016 but the Council has been unaware subsequently as to the outworkings of the consultation process and regarding DAERA's intentions and timetable for formally designating the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area.

1.4 This report serves therefore to provide an update to the People and Communities Committee on progress by DAERA concerning designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to note the contents of this report.

## 3.0 Main report

### Key Issues

3.1 The Committee is advised that the Environmental Noise Directive (END) has been transposed into Northern Ireland legislation through the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, with three main objectives;

- (i) To determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping;
- (ii) To make information on environmental noise available to the public; and
- (iii) To develop Noise Action Plans based on the mapping results, to reduce noise levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good, including protecting Quiet Areas.

3.2 The Regulations required that by the 30th September 2007, DAERA was to have prepared noise maps identifying Quiet Areas in agglomerations. The Department was to have then considered whether the noise maps produced continued to be appropriate and if not, by the 30th September in any subsequent 'relevant' year, the Department was to have prepared, if it considered it necessary, updated noise maps identifying Quiet Areas in agglomerations. The 'relevant' years were 2012 and every fifth year thereafter, i.e. 2017, 2022, etc. Certified copies of the maps were to be made

available for inspection by DAERA on a website or in another manner considered to be appropriate.

- 3.3 In order to assist in identifying Quiet Areas within agglomerations, DAERA published, 'Draft Guidance on the Identification and Designation of Quiet Areas' in September 2015. Qualifying criteria included that the land to be designated should be publicly available parks or open space within the agglomeration, that the noise level at the location should be less than or equal to 55 dB  $L_{den}$ ; and that the land should have a minimum area of 5 hectares (circa 12.4 acres). The term  $L_{den}$  relates to an averaged noise level, based on modelled Day, Evening and Night noise levels, as denoted in the various technical mapping reports and accompanying DAERA online Noise Map Viewer:  
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/noise-maps>
- 3.4 With regard to the protection of Quiet Areas, DAERA guidance advises that district councils are to manage the local noise environment within Quiet Areas to avoid increases in noise from the sources covered by END, i.e. road, railway, aircraft and industrial noise sources. In addition, they are to protect Quiet Areas by bringing forward bespoke policies in their Local Development Plans and managing the noise impact of development through determining planning applications. Accordingly, Policy ENV1 - Environmental Quality of Belfast City Council's Local Development Plan, Draft Plan Strategy document advises that, 'Planning permission will be granted for development that will maintain and, where possible, enhance environmental quality, and protect communities from materially harmful development'. The Policy further advises that the Council will require development to positively address protection of the city's designated Quiet Areas and quiet times of day for businesses (daytime) and residents (night-time).
- 3.5 In order to obtain an update on the designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area, council environmental officers contacted their counterparts within DAERA. By way of response, the Department has advised that three Quiet Areas were designated within the Greater Belfast agglomeration on the 20th September 2016, on the basis of round 2 (for the 2012 year) noise mapping results. These were Connor Park / Stricklands Glen in Bangor West; Bashfordsland in Carrickfergus; and Carnmoney Hill Upper in Newtownabbey.
- 3.6 DAERA has additionally advised that the absence of a DAERA Minister from early 2017 prevented designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area from progressing, and that in the intervening time period, round 2 noise mapping data (for the 2012 year), on which the Lagan Meadows Quiet Area consultation was based, has been superseded by round 3 noise mapping data (for the 2017 year) and will be informed further by round 4 noise maps. Referring to the Department's various noise maps for the Lagan Meadows area, it is noted



that 2017 year round 3 modelled consolidated  $L_{den}$  noise levels have broadly decreased across the Lagan Meadows when compared with the consolidated  $L_{den}$  noise levels reported for the 2012 year round 2 noise mapping.

- 3.7 Moreover, DAERA has advised that round 4 noise maps are to employ an updated noise mapping methodology as detailed within Commission Directive 2015/996 of the 19th May 2015, establishing common noise assessment methods according to Directive 2002/49/EC, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, i.e. Common Noise Assessment Methods in Europe for road, railway, aircraft and industrial noise (CNOSSOS-EU).
- 3.8 DAERA has therefore advised that further work relating to the designation of Quiet Areas in Northern Ireland will be based on the outcome of round 4 noise mapping which will incorporate the CNOSSOS-EU noise assessment methodology.

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.9 None.

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments**

- 3.10 None.”

A Member asked the Director to write to DAERA reaffirming the Committee’s support for designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area and to seek a written update as to the Department’s next steps and timeframe concerning the designation.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to agree that that the Director of City Services writes to DAERA to reaffirm the Councils proposal to have Lagan Meadows designated as a quiet area and to seek an update in regard to the status and timeframe for the proposal.

#### **Wheelie Box Pilot Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To provide an update on plans to reinstate the Wheelie-box pilot in the Castle Area. The scheme was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID outbreak. Councillors and residents have regularly enquired when the process would be reinstated.

1.2 To highlight recommendations to the configuration of the wheelie-box scheme and seek approval to start communicating to the residents prior to ratification at the September 1st Council meeting, with a view to restarting the full service from Monday, 6th September 2021.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

- Note the update to reinstate the service.
- Agree with the proposed configuration changes to the collection process as illustrated in Table 1 and to starting the engagement and communication with Residents in the coming weeks in advance of the ratification by Council on 1st September.

## 3.0 Main report

3.1 Members are reminded that it was noted at the 11th May People and Communities Committee that plans were being drawn up to re-instate the Caste pilot subject to review of the resource capacity within Resources and Fleet and appropriate controls being put in place to achieve a Covid safe recovery of the service.

3.2 The planning and review led to operational recommendations to achieve the successful recovery of the pilot. The changes are to the collection process to streamline it making it easier for residents to recycle and for crews to collect more efficiently.

3.3 Specifically, by separating cardboard from glass recycling, this improves the safety of the operation and positively impacts the collection efficiency at the kerbside because less sorting is required.

3.4 Additionally, the proposal to sort cardboard with paper makes the end process consistent with other re-cycling providers and more straightforward for residents. The combination of paper and cardboard in the same wheelie box improves the re-cycling rate by lowering the rejection rate at Bryson recycling and at the paper processor<sup>1</sup>.

3.5 Finally, discussions were held in relation to the collection of batteries and hand tools with the MRF contractor, Bryson Recycling. Bryson highlighted particular concerns around the recycling of batteries, as a significant fire risk at their facility. It was noted that there had been two significant fires at Waste Facilities in Belfast in the last year and the major

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<sup>1</sup> This is done by removing the risk of broken glass and the liquid contents of bottles contaminating the cardboard.

cause of such fires have been attributed to batteries. In relation to hand tools it was noted the near zero uptake of these items and as such the space in the wheelie boxes could be put to much better use.

Table 1 below sets out the proposed changes

	Pre COVID process	Proposed process
Top box	Bagged textiles and paper	Cardboard and paper
Middle box	Plastics and tins	No change
Bottom box	Cardboard and glass	Glass only
Food waste	Food Caddy	No change
Textiles	Bagged and placed in the Top box	Bagged and placed in any of the 3 stacker boxes
Batteries and hand tools	Batteries bagged and hand tools in top box	This Service will not be re-instated at this time

- 3.6 To reinstate the pre-COVID service, 3 x Romaquip Waste collection vehicles and crews are required. One of these vehicles is additional due to the impact of Covid increasing the levels of waste collection from home with glass collection increasing by 33%, recyclables by 23% and black bin waste by 12%. An additional 3 follow on vans are also required to comply with social distancing. The requirement of this additional vehicle and crew will be kept under review should government guidance changes in relation to operational working constraints,
- 3.7 With the uncertainty around the lifting of Covid19 restrictions the forecast is additional vehicles will be required until the end of this financial year, this will be kept under review in light of any updated public health advice.
- 3.8 Arc 21 and Bryson Recycling have been engaged in developing the reinstatement implementation plan. The reinstatement of the full service will reflect the collection and processing arrangements Bryson have introduced to the inner city collection service that have been running throughout the current pandemic.

- 3.9 The pilot is due to run until September 2022 with the evaluation to date continuing to feed into the current economic appraisal on recycling operations and thereafter the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. It is important the full pilot resumes as soon as practical to inform the wider strategic direction.
- 3.10 The operational recovery assurance process has been completed, but the service will not fully resume until all the necessary risk assessments, associated training plans and governance are agreed and are in place. It is envisaged that all outstanding safety measures will be in place before the requested start date of 6th September 2021.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.11 There are costs associated with the reinstatement of the pilot as Covid restrictions continue to impact, particularly from social distancing and from the additional waste and recycling volumes arising from the impact of increased levels of working from home. These additional costs are forecast to be up to £160k and we expect to claim the costs from the Department for the Communities Covid fund.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.12 There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs assessment associated with this report."

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

- note and agree the proposals to reinstate the service; and
- agree with the proposed configuration changes to the collection process and to commencing engagement with the residents in the coming weeks, in advance Council ratification on 1st September.

**Request to Support Research Project at Queen's  
University Belfast into Sustainable Packaging**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Committee that Queen's University Belfast, in Partnership with the University of Southampton, was in the final stages of applying for funding from the UK Government to carry out research into new bio-degradable/compostable packaging materials.

The aim of the project, which was to run for three years, was to develop foams that could be 3D printed into custom protective packaging for transporting products, for example, in e-commerce. The foam materials would be bio-mass derived and degradable into useful end-products to ensure it was used in a circular and sustainable way (that is, producing compost for growing food). The aim being to develop a replacement to current packaging materials like expanded polystyrene.

He explained that they had requested the involvement of an officer from the Recycling Outreach Team to help support this work, this would be for approximately two hours per month and would involve:

- providing input on requirements to bring new sustainable protective packaging solutions into use from the perspective of municipal waste management systems and the associated public policies and education;
- providing feedback on project activities and progress updates;
- participating in planned stakeholder engagement activities, including surveys and workshops;
- assisting QUB to engage with other relevant stakeholders, such as waste management providers and processing companies; and
- helping plan and promote public outreach and education activities.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to grant the requested support from the Recycling Outreach Team, along with a letter of support for the project.

### **Affordable Warmth Scheme**

The Director of City Services reminded the Members that, at a meeting of the Committee held on 9th February 2021, it had agreed to sign the 2020/21 Service Level Agreement, with a caveat regarding concerns raised around targeted ratio and funding. These concerns had subsequently been discussed with the Mr. D. Polley, Director Housing Supply Policy, when he had attended the May meeting of the Committee.

Following ongoing discussions, the Department for Communities (DfC) had now provided an interim Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2021/21, available [here](#). The Director confirmed that engagement was ongoing and that the review into the main issues raised was still being completed (as outlined within the SLA).

The Committee was advised that, until completion of the review, the Affordable Warmth Scheme would continue to operate the payment per referral model. The referral rate was set at 360, which would cover the costs of the direct staff employed to work on the scheme.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

- agree to the request from DfC to sign the interim 2021-2022 SLA provided; and

- note the ongoing review which would be used in drafting the SLA for the next financial year.

### **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

#### **Revenue Grant for Community Buildings – request to transfer 2021/22 awards**

The Committee considered the following report:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To seek Committee authorisation for transfer of the BCC revenue grant award from Newhill Youth & Community Association to Upper Springfield Development Trust (USDT).
- 1.2 The total award amount is £13,000. Newhill Y&C Association have received the first payment of £6,500. The second payment will be due in October subject to submission of grant interim monitoring details and DFC agreed allocation.
- 1.3 Both organisations have engaged solicitors to undertake a merger with ‘due diligence’ now coming to a conclusion.
- 1.4 The proposal will ensure that all current and additional services/programmes will continue to be delivered from the facility for which the BCC revenue grant applies.
- 1.5 Legal governance and financial transfer of obligations and accountability will be met by USDT including contractual obligations relating to BCC revenue funding.
- 1.6 USDT does not receive a Capacity or Revenue grant thus the proposal to transfer the award does not conflict with Council’s policy on provision of the community development grants.

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to;
  - authorise transfer of the BCC revenue grant currently paid to Newhill Youth & Community Association to Upper Springfield Development Trust (USDT). Authorisation is subject to the merger of both organisations. Completion of all governance and financial obligations and continued service delivery from the facility for which the revenue grant has been awarded.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Newhill Youth & Community Association based at 261 Whiterock Road, Belfast BT12 7SX are in receipt of a revenue grant for community buildings in the amount of £13,000. The Letter of Offer was issued in June 2021 and the first instalment of the grant (£6,500) paid to Newhill Y&C Association.**

**3.2 The Board of Newhill Y&C Association approached the Upper Springfield Development Trust (USDT) in 2020 to request that both organisations consider merger options. This was influenced by two key factors. The first being the governance capacity of the Newhill Board. The second being the strategic compatibility of both organisations. USDT are considered to be the lead community development organisation within the Upper Springfield Community. Newhill Y&C Association have a 'state of the art' facility but limited human resources. USDT have an established youth and community project with financial and human resources but limited space to work from.**

**3.3 USDT have been operating as the 'parent' company for Newhill Youth & Community Association for the past 12 months. Legal advice has indicated that the most prudent and sustainable way forward is to formally dissolve Newhill Y&C Association and transfer all undertaking and contractual obligations to USDT. The Boards of both organisations have been formally completing the necessary 'due diligence' in relation to the formal merger.**

**Key Issues**

**3.4 The P&C Committee of 13th April 2021 authorised six month Letters of Offer for the period 2021/22 to be issued to all current recipients of Councils Community Buildings Revenue Grant. Payment at an approximate value of 50% of their 2021/22 grant allocation. The remaining allocation to be determined following confirmation from DFC.**

**3.5 The Council revenue grant was awarded to support the delivery of community development programmes and services from the building at 261 Whiterock Road, Belfast. Following the merger of USDT and Newhill Y&C Association, USDT will continue to deliver these services and programmes from the building.**

**3.6 The merging of the two organisations will address capacity issues and ensure the continued and additional delivery of services in the area.**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.7 Council has extended all current funding contracts for the period 2021/22. The second payment of grant is subject to Department for Communities agreed allocation.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.8 There are no equality or good relations impacts associated with this report.”

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to authorise the transfer of the Belfast City Council revenue grant, currently paid to Newhill Youth and Community Association to Upper Springfield Development Trust, with the authorisation being subject to:

- the merger of both organisations; and
- the completion of all governance and financial obligations and continued service delivery from the facility for which the revenue grant had been awarded.

**Operational Issues**

**Proposal for naming new street**

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to approve the application for naming a new street in the City as set out below:

<b>Proposed Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>
Ben Madigan Hill	Off Ben Madigan Heights	Kilmoon Developments

**The Queen’s Green Canopy - Tree Planting Initiative  
celebrating the forthcoming Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to defer consideration of the report to enable information to be obtained and submitted to a future meeting in regard to the proposed locations as to where the trees would be planted and also to establish the varieties of the trees to be planted, ensuring that those selected met the criteria to ensure inclusion within the Council’s One Million Tree planting initiative.



**Requested tree planting in Victoria Park to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a request had been received from the East End Great War Society seeking permission to plant six chestnut trees in Victoria Park to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland, which would then be marked with a commemorative plaque. They had requested that the plaque be provided by the Council, which would state 'Centenary Wood', along with the names of the persons planting the trees.

The Committee was advised that the East End Great War Society was a World War I commemorative project based in East Belfast and that it had been involved in a range of educational and commemorative projects throughout the Decade of Centenaries.

The Director advised that, if the Committee supported the request, it would come under the remit of the tree management plan for Victoria Park, as part of its replacement planting programme and would be resourced from the related revenue budget. The additional trees would be included within the Council's One Million Tree Planting Programme running total.

As with the previous minute, a Member asked for officers to clarify that the requested Chestnut trees would be eligible for inclusion within the One Million Tree Planting initiative numbers and to substitute if necessary.

The Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to grant the request from the East End Great War Society to plant six Chestnut trees, along with the commemorative plaque, within an agreed location in Victoria Park, subject to officers ensuring that the proposed variety of trees used were eligible for inclusion within the Council's One Million Tree planting initiative.

**Ormeau Park BMX Track**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 This report is to seek approval to work in partnership with Cycling Ulster on a project to develop the existing BMX track in Ormeau Park.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:**

- **Grant approval for officers to work in partnership with Cycling Ulster officials to submit an application to the Whitemountain Programme main grants fund to redevelop the Ormeau Park BMX track.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

- 3.1 Council maintains a recreational BMX track in Ormeau Park which has low levels of use and is not used for club activity. Belfast BMX clubs are required to travel to the Lisburn track and beyond for training sessions, fitting in around the requirements of the local club. Despite this, members of the city's most successful club, Belfast City BMX club, regularly compete and succeed at the highest levels of the sport locally and nationally, with many of their members achieving international selection for European and World championships.**
- 3.2 Cycling Ulster have previously approached officers seeking to work in partnership to identify sites for development of new facilities for the many branches within the sport of cycling, including track, mountain bike, cyclo-cross and BMX. Options for possible sites continue to be explored. Recently the chair of Cycling Ulster's BMX commission and the Cycling Ulster Development Officer met with Council officers to explore the option of redeveloping the existing Ormeau Park BMX track to a high enough standard for club training. At this meeting they agreed that they wish to work with Council officers to draw down funding from external sources and offered a direct contribution from Cycling Ulster. The Whitemountain Programme main grant offers up to £50,000 with application deadlines of 23rd July and 29th October. An application was submitted prior to the July deadline. To support this application the Council provided a letter offering an 'in principle' commitment for the Council to work in partnership with the group in respect of this project to enhance a Council asset. This commitment was subject to P&C consideration in August.**
- 3.3 Cycling Ulster have sought estimated costs from established specialist contractors which indicate that an amount of £75,000 should be budgeted to complete the project. The project will involve some work to the redesign the existing track to improve its rideability for a range of ability levels. The redesigned track will enable BMX clubs to programme and offer training and coaching sessions to its members, will permit them to offer bookable come and try it sessions for newcomers and will increase enjoyable use of the track for recreational and beginner riders.**
- 3.4 Monitoring and Performance. Council officers will carry out random user counts at the site in advance of the project and data captured from bookings and user counts after development will quantify the extent of enhanced use following improved track design and programmed activity.**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.5 A total of £75,000 is estimated to deliver this project. Cycling Ulster anticipate that an amount of £50,000 will be available from Whitemountain Programme main grant and in the region £5,000 from Cycling Ulster budget. Cycling Ulster seeks to identify other potential funders and may seek some financial support via the Council, subject to availability of funding and normal consideration.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.6 None associated with this report.”**

In accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Members agreed that the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to grant approval for officers to work in partnership with Cycling Ulster officials to submit an application to the Whitemountain Programme main grants fund to redevelop the Ormeau Park BMX track

Chairperson