

Document Pack
Committee and Members' Services Section
3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GD



14th August, 2009

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange on Friday, 21st August, 2009 at 10.00 am 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
2. **Transition Committee Business**
 - (a) Feedback from Members' Workshop (to follow)
3. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Transfer of Members back to the City Hall (Pages 1 - 4)
 - (b) Lord Mayor's Personal Allowance (Pages 5 - 8)

4. **Finance**

- (a) Approval to Seek Tenders (CCTV Maintenance) (Pages 9 - 10)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel of 14th August
(to follow)

5. **Human Resources**

- (a) Operational Changes to the Security Unit (Pages 11 - 14)
- (b) Amalgamation of Staff Teams to Support the Community Safety Partnership and the District Policing Partnership (Pages 15 - 40)
- (c) Swine Flu Pandemic - Management and Reporting of Absence (Pages 41 - 42)
- (d) Absence Management (Pages 43 - 46)

6. **Asset Management**

- (a) Disposal of Land at 702 Antrim Road (Pages 47 - 52)
- (b) Connswater Community Greenway Update (Pages 53 - 58)
- (c) Dargan Road Landfill Closure Plan - Planned Future Works (Pages 59 - 60)
- (d) Replacement of Sports Hall Floor at Shankill Leisure Centre (Pages 61 - 62)

7. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 14th August
(to follow)
- (b) Use of Memorabilia in the City Hall (Pages 63 - 72)

8. **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- (a) Options for Reducing Carbonaceous Emissions from the Council's Vehicle Fleet (Pages 73 - 76)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Transfer of Members back to the City Hall
Date:	21 st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	George Wright – Head of Facilities Management, Ext5206/6232
Contact Officer:	As above

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the re-occupation of the City Hall will commence in September 2009. This report seeks to set out the associated timescales and issues so far as they will impact on civic office-holders, elected Members and political parties.

In terms of our statement of principle, it is the intention of the decant team to try to ensure that the political process is fully operational from the beginning of the first day of the decant, namely **Monday 14th September 2009**. To achieve this a number of steps are necessary, as follows:

- the furniture currently in storage will be re-instated in the various party rooms during the period 31st August 2009 – 10th September 2009;
- the meeting tables and chairs currently in the party rooms in Adelaide Exchange will be transported to the City Hall commencing 9th September 2009 (some basic alternative office furniture will be provided during this period to facilitate party meetings etc);
- the wall-mounted televisions (not the security systems) will be transported to City Hall on Monday 7th September 2009 and will therefore not be available during the final week;
- the art, artefacts and other decorative items held by the Lord Mayor's unit and currently located in Clarendon Dock will be re-located in the City Hall during the week-commencing 7th September 2009 and the main art/artefacts restoration will also be complete by this time;

- at 3:00pm on Friday 11th September 2009 all PCs and printers etc in all the members' rooms and in Clarendon Dock will be powered down and transferred to City Hall, re-connected and tested;
- during week-commencing 7th September 2009 live filing for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, High Sheriff, all members' rooms plus all support staff will be transferred to City Hall, with a final lift on the 11th September 2009 at 3pm;
- during the first week of decant only one Committee room will be in operation; the first meeting to be held in this room will be the meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee scheduled for **18th September 2009** (the second room will come on stream the following week);
- the first meeting of full Council will take place in the City Hall on **1st October 2009**;
- the Member Services team, together with all PCs and equipment etc, will also be transferred over the initial weekend (i.e. on 11th September 2009), and will thus be in a position to support Members immediately;
- the Chief Executive and secretariat staff will also be transferred over the initial weekend and will also be available to Members immediately; *and*
- telephonist, reception and security staff will all be in position as normal from Monday 14th September 2009.

The entire decant process is scheduled to be complete on 3rd October 2009 with all staff transferred and all relevant areas of the building open to the public for tours etc. on **Monday 5th October 2009**.

Clearly, during this period of decant there is bound to be some disruption; we regret this and will obviously try to keep it to a minimum and we would ask for members' forbearance during this period.

Coffee-shop/exhibition area

Members will also be aware that the coffee-shop franchise has been let and that the design for the main exhibition area is at an advanced stage. A report was recently tabled to the memorabilia working group setting out the proposed approach and content for the exhibition area, and the group indicated that it was satisfied that the brief – to celebrate the evolution of the city into a leading industrial centre through the contributions of its working men and women – was comprehensively addressed by the proposals.

It is intended that the main coffee-shop and exhibition area will be open to the public from **5th October 2009**, together with the updated (and now interactive) 'No Mean City' display. However, before this area is opened up to the public we would like to be able to extend an invitation to all members to attend a fairly informal ceremony in the new exhibition area in order to have a preview of the finished product, followed by a light buffet lunch in the Reception Room. **We will come back to Committee with a firm date subject to fit out progress.**

Key Issues

The Committee is asked to note and endorse the general decant proposals set out herein. The Committee is also asked to approve the proposed general invitation to members to attend the coffee-shop & exhibition area preview.

Resource Implications

There are no direct financial, human resources or asset implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee note and endorse the general decant proposals, and approves the request to host a members' preview of the coffee-shop/exhibition area.

Decision Tracking

The main decant will commence on 11th September, 2009 and will be complete and the building fully operational by 5th October, 2009.

If approved, invitations to attend the preview event will be issued in early September 2009 to all members.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Lord Mayor's Personal Allowance
Date:	21st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Mr. L. Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
Contact Officer:	Mr. L. Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (Extension 6325)

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting on 19th June, the Committee deferred consideration of a report indicating that the Lord Mayor did not wish to accept her personal allowance for 2009/2010 and seeking permission to reallocate an amount equivalent to the Lord Mayor's Personal Allowance to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme. A copy of the report is attached.

Key Issues

The Lord Mayor has indicated that her view has not changed and that she does not wish to accept the personal allowance. She would still like the Committee to authorise an amount equivalent to the personal allowance - some £33,800 - to be allocated to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme, which supports the work of local communities throughout the City on a range of good relations issues.

Resource Implications

Since the money is already provided for in the Council's current budgets, there would be no additional resources required.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to authorise the reallocation of the Lord Mayor's Personal Allowance for 2009/2010 - £33,800 - to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme, on the understanding that this would be a one-off measure and will not be taken to create a precedent.

Decision Tracking

Responsibility for ensuring the reallocation to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme of the amount involved will rest with the Head of Committee and Members' Services and will be undertaken by 8th September, 2009.

Documents Attached

Report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th June.
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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Lord Mayor's Personal Allowance
Date:	Friday, 19 th June, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator (ext. 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Gareth Quinn, Development Officer (ext. 6316)

Relevant Background Information

During their Term of Office each of the Civic Dignitaries receives a personal allowance which is agreed each year by Council. This allowance is intended to compensate the post-holder for the time involved and expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of Lord Mayor.

On 8th May, 2009 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to increase the Lord Mayor's Allowance of £33,200 in line with the Consumer Price Index as at 1st June, 2009.

Key Issues

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Naomi Long, has indicated that it is her intention not to accept her personal allowance. The Lord Mayor is keen to ensure that her decision not to accept her personal allowance is not seen as setting a precedent for future Lord Mayors. She is very conscious of the fact that other Members who may be elected in the future to the position of Lord Mayor may not be able to make the same gesture.

While the non-acceptance of the personal allowance will be of benefit to the Council and therefore the rate-payers, the Lord Mayor, who has an affinity with the promotion of Good Relations – she has been Chairman of the Council's Good Relations Partnership for the previous two years – would be anxious to see an amount equivalent to the Lord Mayor's personal allowance allocated to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme, which supports the work of local communities throughout the city on a range of good relations issues. This would then be distributed along with current funding to applicants satisfying the existing criteria applied by the Committee.

The allocation of this money by the Council at source would enable the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme to benefit without Tax and National Insurance being deducted.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to authorise the reallocation of the Lord Mayor's Personal Allowance for 2009/10 to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme, on the understanding that this is a one off measure and will not be taken to create a precedent.

Decision Tracking

If the Committee adopts the recommendation, the amount involved, after the increase in the Consumer Price Index as at 1st June has been added, will be confirmed and reallocated to the Good Relations Small Grants Scheme.

Officer responsible – Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services.



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Approval to seek Tenders (CCTV maintenance)
Date:	21 st August 2009
Reporting Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management
Contact Officer:	G. Wright (Ext. 5206/2438)

Relevant background information

Members will be aware that, in the course of providing maintenance services at all Council properties, the Property Maintenance unit makes regular use of a number of external contractors to provide specialist services. After analysing the annual costs spent on maintaining the specialist CCTV systems throughout BCC properties it has become clear that a single tender exercise is required for the annual maintenance of specialist CCTV systems.

The new contract will be for the repair and maintenance of CCTV, access control and traffic-control systems, and the approximate value is **£65,000** per year.

Detailed technical drawings and specifications are to be prepared in order to permit the contracts to be let, and subject to Committee approval advertisements will be placed in the local press inviting applications for inclusion on a select list from which tenders will be subsequently invited.

Key Issues

The duration of the contract will be for 1 year with an option of 2 yearly extensions, dependant on performance, to a maximum of 3 years. Submissions will be evaluated in accordance with agreed evaluation criteria and in liaison with the Procurement Section where appropriate.

Resources Implications

Financial

Regularly testing the market via competitive tendering ensures that we obtain the best possible value for money and standards of service from our external suppliers, which in turn assists us in driving down costs and minimising the rate burden.

Human Resources

There are no direct HR implications in respect of this report.

Asset & other implications

Having a range of experienced and efficient contractors available is an important factor in delivering effective property maintenance service to the Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee approves the invitation of applications for inclusion on a select list of contractors in respect of the repair and maintenance of CCTV, access control and traffic control systems, as set out above.

Decision Tracking

If approval is obtained, the select list exercise will commence in October 2009 with the new contractual arrangements targeted to be fully operational by 1st January 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents attached

None

By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Amalgamation of Staff Teams to Support the Community Safety Partnership and the District Policing Partnership
Date:	21 st August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Head of Environmental Health, ext. 3281
Contact Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Head of Environmental Health, ext. 3281 Liam Steele, Head of Committee & Members' Services, ext 6325

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the Council's contribution to a Safer City is achieved through its leadership role in both the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and District Policing Partnership (DPP) as well as through the delivery of services by a number of departments. Members have previously expressed concerns that there is considerable duplication between the work of both partnerships and consider that there should be a more integrated approach.

Earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) Minister, Paul Goggins, consulted key stakeholders requesting views on the future delivery of the functions of both partnerships.

The current roles of each partnership are described below:

- **The Belfast District Policing Partnership**

The District Policing Partnership (DPP) consists of a Principal DPP and four geographically based sub groups. The DPP, which is made up of both Elected and Independent Members, has statutory responsibility for community engagement on policing issues, gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and in monitoring the performance of the police against the targets included in the Annual and Local Policing Plans. The Northern Ireland Policing Board provides for 75% of approved expenditure incurred by the DPP which consists mostly of Members' allowances and staff salaries. There is also provision for the advertising and holding of a significant number of public meetings to monitor police performance and a small amount to support local initiatives. In the 2008/09 financial year, the total contribution from the Policing Board was £383,000.

- **The Community Safety Partnership**

The Belfast Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together representatives from various agencies and sectors to work collectively on the delivery of programmes to help make communities safer. Each of the political parties is represented. The CSP is working to an agreed Safer Belfast Plan for 2009–2011, which prioritises four main themes: tackling anti-social behaviour; reducing alcohol fuelled violent crime; dealing with hate crime; and helping Belfast feel safer. The Council receives some funding from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) on behalf of the CSP which currently includes £380,000 for programme work and £123,000 for staff per year (secured until end of March 2011). Partner agencies also make some contributions to particular programmes.

At its meeting of 24th April 2009, the Committee agreed an interim response to the NIO consultation, which stated that it is in agreement with the principle of creating fully integrated partnerships post 2011 and on taking steps as soon as possible to more closely align the work and approaches of CSPs and DPPs. Subsequently, on 22nd May, it agreed its more detailed response, which is attached in Appendix 1.

In addition, a Safer City workshop was held for Members on 6th April 2009 at which a discussion took place on the steps which could be taken to more closely align the work of the two partnerships prior to 2011. There was general consensus around the following issues:

- The CSP/DPP staff should be brought together under one Service and management structure; and
- Further work should be carried out and agreed through the political system to better align the work and outcomes of both partnerships.

Key Issues

The Minister has now written to the Chief Executive and to the chairs of both the CSP and DPP, thanking them for their response and outlining the general nature of all of the responses received. A copy of this letter and the accompanying document are attached as Appendices 2(a) and 2(b).

The letter outlines that there is clear support for bringing the current CSP and DPP functions together into a single partnership post RPA. Concerns expressed reflected the fact that:

- There should not be a dilution of the existing arrangements for ensuring that the police are accountable to their local communities; and
- Proposals and future frameworks need to take account of the developing Community Planning frameworks.

A new working group has been set up to take the review forward into the next stage and to propose potential future models and working arrangements. However the documentation from the Minister (Appendices 2(a) and 2(b)) also requires that by the Autumn, each Council should be working to achieve the following:

- Sharing of information between the partnerships;
- Reciprocal reporting arrangements (for each partnership to notify the other of its main activities and outcomes);
- Identification of joint projects for collaboration;
- Some members of CSP attending DPP meetings and vice-a-versa.
- Sharing processes for priority setting to assist the development of future local policing plans;
- Shared public engagement events;

Some of the above joint working arrangements have already been put in place in Belfast, but a small number will also require further discussions with the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Community Safety Unit at the NIO to ensure that these can be achieved whilst allowing both Partnerships to meet their agreed targets and timescales and that any necessary changes can be made to the Code of Practice with regard to this and to holding meetings in public. It is proposed that bringing the two staff teams supporting the CSP and DPP together would serve as an essential step in achieving this more joined up approach.

It is therefore proposed that the staff providing support to the DPP move to be co-located with the Community Safety Team and that both teams of staff are managed within the Environmental Health Service. The advantages of doing this would be that it could facilitate:

- Less duplication of work and roles;
- More sharing of resources;
- A single point of contact for all safer city issues;
- Sharing of information;
- More joint projects;
- A joined up approach to planning and much more of a connection between the issues raised at DPP meetings and projects and services delivered via the community safety team and the NIO funding for CSP programmes;
- Fewer meetings;
- A more joined up approach to community engagement;
- A greater input by elected representatives into the work of the CSP;
- Single consultation exercises.

Resource Implications

Finance

There would be no staff costs associated with this move.

Human Resources

Discussions will now take place with the relevant stakeholders including the Trade Unions. However as changes to DPP staff duties are not required, it is envisaged that implementation of the changes would be achieved through 'badging' of the existing DPP unit and related posts to the Environmental Health Service structure. The job description of the new Safer City Manager Post can accommodate management of the DPP team.

Assets

In addition, the ongoing accommodation plans can ensure that space is provided for co-location of the teams in the Cecil Ward Building, once some decanting has occurred in the Autumn.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to agree that steps are taken to amalgamate the CSP and DPP teams, including:

- The re-badging of posts within the DPP Unit to the Environmental Health Service structure with the DPP manager reporting to the Safer City Manager post, as soon as agreement of the Council is reached; and
- The staff team of the DPP moving to be co-located with the CSP team in the Cecil Ward Building as soon as the accommodation becomes available, following the move of some work units back to the City Hall;

- Authorising officers to enter into detailed discussions with the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Community Safety Unit at the NIO in respect of the impact on current expectations, targets and codes of practice. .

The Committee is also asked to agree the proposed management arrangements as the management side position and that if no written objections are received from the Unions, that we can proceed directly to implementation stage without further referral back to Committee.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Detailed Council Response to the NIO Consultation Document: Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety; a way forward.

Appendix 2(a) Letter from Minister Goggins.

Appendix 2(b) Summary of Responses

Decision Tracking

Further update reports on progress towards better aligning the work of the DPPs and CSPs will be brought back to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee by the Head of Environmental Health and the Head of Committee and Members' Services, as appropriate.

Appendix 1

**Local partnership working on policing and community safety;
a way forward**

A consultation response by Belfast City Council

May 2009

1. Introduction

Belfast City Council is pleased to respond to this consultation given its lead role in the management and administration of the Belfast Community Safety Partnership and the District Policing Partnership.

The Council has for some time expressed concerns that there is too much duplication between the two partnerships and a lack of integration is apparent.

The Council has already provided an interim response outlining that it is in agreement with the principle of creating fully integrated partnerships in the longer term and on taking steps as soon as possible to more closely align the work and approaches of CSPs and DPPs.

At a recent workshop held for Elected Representatives on the Safer City Agenda, Members expressed the view that the current separation between the two partnerships is far from ideal and there are definite advantages in bringing the two partnerships together in the longer term. In addition, they emphasised that the independent monitoring function currently provided by the DPP needs to be maintained, as this is a statutory function. They also felt that the political primacy provided by the DPP was extremely important. However, whilst it was recognised that the DPP delivers its services under statutory authority which restricts the scope of its operations, it was considered that DPPs needed to change in that their inability at present to deliver interventions and programmes at community level, was causing serious frustration among both Members and the Public.

The Council has not been overly prescriptive in its response at this point in time as it considers that specific models will evolve as the scope and functions of the new integrated partnership develop, the community planning framework is progressed and devolution of criminal justice takes place which could result in some further alterations to what is proposed in the consultation document. The Council would therefore request that there is a process of continuous dialogue with it as the proposals progress.

The following more detailed comments are made in response to the questions posed in the consultation document.

2. Response

Q 1. Should we be planning for the creation of fully integrated local partnerships to coincide with the move to 11 council areas in 2011?

Belfast City Council has already responded on this issue, stating that it is in agreement with the principle of creating fully integrated partnerships in the longer term and on taking steps as soon as possible to more closely align the work and approaches of CSPs and DPPs

The Council however recommends that significant time is invested through meaningful and proactive consultations with elected members,

stakeholders, partners and community networks to agree the scope, functions and structure of the new partnership. Clarity of roles and responsibilities is essential.

It is important to note that councils will also, between now and 2011, be identifying their approach to community planning and the new 'safety' partnership arrangements would support and complement this new way of working.

The Council's view is that both the accountability and delivery roles of the existing partnerships must be maintained and where possible combined in a pragmatic way. There still exists a political imperative to monitor the performance of the PSNI against the policing plan. There is also a need to demonstrate that issues raised through community engagement can be supported by direct intervention programmes and that planning on 'safety' for each area is much better integrated.

Q2. Provided sufficient consensus exists on the principle of new integrated partnerships, should the working group, which would include the main stakeholder organisations, be invited to agree outline proposals that could be presented to an incoming devolved minister?

Once the function of the new partnership is agreed and a clear understanding of what is or is not included is reached; it makes sense that the working group would develop outline proposals to be presented to an incoming Minister for Justice. However it is imperative that such proposals are developed in consultation with councils and other stakeholders.

Q3. Are the timescales proposed for achieving the new partnerships realistic (annex A)? If not, when should we be aiming to have them in place?

Annex A refers to a number of steps which culminate in *membership and governance of new partnerships being confirmed in advance of local government reforms* which are scheduled for 2011. This would appear to be a logical timeframe given that the number of partnerships will be reduced to 11 at that time. However it should be borne in mind that the DPPs were reconstituted in April, 2008 for a four year term. Steps would need to be taken to dissolve the DPPs before their term expires if we are to be ready to start the new arrangements in 2011.

As mentioned previously Belfast City Council recommends that the working group invests its energy in ensuring the functions and scope are correct at this stage so that the structural proposals are well thought through in advance of 2011.

Q 4 Should all of the current community safety partnership and district policing partnership functions be maintained?

The Council considers that the functions of both partnerships should be maintained. In particular the monitoring role of the DPP in respect of the PSNI and the annual and local policing plans is considered vital as is the delivery role of the existing community safety partnership. However it is considered that in bringing the two partnerships together there is an opportunity to streamline and clarify the functions of:

- engagement
- planning
- delivery
- monitoring and review.

This review should take account of the changes taking place through the review of public administration where the new partnership is likely to form a sub partnership of the community planning structure for the area.

It is important that elected representatives have a pivotal role to play, not only in monitoring the performance of the PSNI, but in oversight of service delivery by public bodies through community planning; this should include the need for elected members to influence the allocation of resources to help deliver a safer Belfast.

The specific functions the new safer area partnership (e.g. the Safer Belfast Partnership) should include:

- To regularly consult and engage with the public to identify local priorities for action by the Safer Area Partnership, including the PSNI. This engagement should also ensure that local communities are involved in identifying and resolving these local community safety and policing issues.
 - To develop a three – four year Safer Area Plan which includes goals, high level intervention programmes and services as well as performance targets and measures.
 - To produce annual Safer Area Action Plans to meet the three year targets. The plan should include a mechanism to respond to emerging issues on an ongoing basis, as well as medium and long term projects.
 - To inform the formation of local and annual policing plans and to monitor performance against these. However consideration should be given over time to the policing plan becoming part of the overall Safer Area Plan. It is appreciated that the current approach to monitoring of PSNI involves public meetings and there would appear to be a desire to continue with this transparent approach.
 - To produce regular assessments of relevant data for monitoring performance against the annual action plans in the context of the longer term 3 – 4 year plan. This should also include specific details on the performance of the PSNI against the agreed action plan.
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The assessment should also inform annual priorities for action by the Safer Area Partnership.

- To develop an evidence base of what programmes and interventions are the most effective. This should include evaluating the Safer Area projects and sharing good practice.

Belfast City Council believes that any functional framework which is developed should allow for a level of local flexibility.

Q 5 Are there additional functions that could be performed by a new local partnership?

- These are outlined in the answer to four above.
- In addition, the new partnership needs to work closely with any Good Relations Partnership structures already established (as is the case in Belfast). Mechanisms could be put in place to enable the business of the Safety Belfast Partnership to be influenced by the Good Relations Partnership, particularly where the manifestation of poor community cohesion results in problems which are seen by the public as community safety issues e.g. rioting at interfaces, problems at bonfire sites, etc.

Q 6. What should be the membership of the new integrated partnership?

The membership of the new integrated partnership should include Elected Representatives at all levels and it should be recognised that they hold a democratic mandate to influence priorities, investment and delivery of services and to monitor performance on behalf of the communities they represent. In determining how Elected Members should be selected, the principle of proportionality should be given primacy over any other consideration. Elected Members should be involved in both the monitoring and delivery groups.

Statutory organisations should also be represented where they have a core function that can impact on community safety. However, it is important that these organisations bring much more than a delivery mechanism to the new integrated partnership. There needs to be a clear mechanism for passing the information that flows from the communities they work with on an area basis up to the partnership which will in turn allow for better planning, appreciation of the impact of projects and programmes as well as an understanding of local tensions and conflicts. They should also be required to align their individual corporate plans with the safer area priorities and should align resources around these priorities. This is something that the Council would wish to see addressed through the community planning framework.

The following statutory partners should comprise the core membership of all the new integrated partnerships; police, council, Housing Executive, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board, Health and Social Services Trust (drug and alcohol services, older people, children/teenager services), Ambulance Service, Fire and Rescue Service, Education (youth services and education welfare).

Community sector partners are also crucial, but it is recognised that it is not easy to achieve a truly representative approach and yet keep the membership of the partnership of a manageable size. Belfast Community Safety Partnership is working with the Belfast Area Partnership Boards to achieve a mechanism to access the wider community sector in the area.

The current DPP membership model includes membership of Independent Members who can also represent communities. There is considered to be merit in continuing this approach. However, again it is appreciated that the size of the partnership must also be manageable.

There are a number of voluntary organisations which should be considered when deciding on the membership of the new partnerships, for example Victim Support, Women's Aid, an older people's representative group and a young people's representative group as they can help the partnership keep a balanced approach. Participation of Extern and NIACRO are also considered important due to their knowledge and expertise in preventing re-offending and supporting people at risk of offending. Co-opting may be an option for some of these organisations as and when the agenda warrants it so as to keep the partnership to a manageable size. However, thought would need to be given to voting and decision making rights.

The participation of trade unions seems inappropriate for the new partnership. Similarly the participation of business representatives should be proportional to the needs identified in the regular assessment of community needs. In Belfast, these assessments seldom identify business crime as a key concern for the public and it may be more appropriate to co-opt members on as and when the agenda would warrant it.

Q 7 What would be the optimum size and combination?

The size and structure of the partnership should ideally ensure that no more than 25 people should be around the table at any one time. This is considered to be the maximum number that would still enable effective discussions and decision making. However it is appreciated that this is not likely to be possible given the number of elected representatives, independent members and partner organisations that need to have representation. Perhaps the tiered approach suggested could assist with managing numbers.

Q8 Who should chair the partnership?

It is the Council's view that the principle of political primacy is reinforced through the appointment of an Elected Representative as chair. The appointment could be accommodated within the Council's annual allocations under the proportionality mechanisms or a system similar to the DPP could be adopted where the Chairmanship is rotated annually between the 4 largest parties on the Council over a 4-year term. However further consideration will need to be given as to the preferred model once the proposals for overall governance arrangements post 2011 have been finalised by the Policy Development Panel 'A' and the Strategic Leadership Board.

Q 9 What do consultees think of the potential model set out in Appendix C?

Given the current arrangements and the political reasons behind a number of the functions, the development of any new model is going to be a significant challenge.

The model described in Appendix C sets out to combine two partnerships and their functions but uses two substructures to continue most of the existing current roles of the community safety partnership and district policing partnerships. This model does not on the face of it seem ideal. However, Belfast City Council appreciates the constraints that the NIO is attempting to take a pragmatic approach.

The proposed membership of the monitoring board in the new partnership arrangement is the same as the current membership of the district policing partnership. Consideration should be given to whether this is the most appropriate form to take. In particular the number and role of the Independent Members should be examined, particularly in light of the fact that there will be a wide range of sectors represented on the overall partnership.

The proposed membership of the delivery group should also include elected representatives as they have the political mandate to challenge delivery organisations.

There is some ambiguity and contradiction in the document as to whether the scope of the review should consider whether the monitoring role should be restricted to the PSNI and the policing plan or to the entire community safety agenda. Although in principle, all organisations should be held to account for their part in delivering the agreed area safety plan, Belfast Council is not currently in a position to give specific comments on this given the stage that RPA is at. However it is important to consider the role of the future community planning partnerships in these deliberations and it is suggested that input on the proposed changes to DPPs and CSPs should be sought from the appropriate bodies involved in driving the RPA process.

Although the community planning framework for Northern Ireland has not yet been agreed, local community planning partnerships, and accountability arrangements introduced alongside them, are likely to present an opportunity to better monitor the performance of a wide range of partners. It is likely that many of the organisations involved in the Safer Belfast Partnership will have senior/chief officers represented on the community planning partnership, so it is hoped priorities will become embedded in member organisations in a much more connected and sustainable way.

The question of oversight on how police performance is monitored at a local level is a matter for political debate at a high level. The issue of the accountability at a regional level complicates the picture as Community Safety Partnerships and District Policing Partnerships are responsible to different bodies, namely the Community Safety Unit and the Northern Ireland Policing Board. The model described on page 33, although complicated envisages that these two accountability channels are maintained. Again the Council appreciates that the NIO is attempting to be pragmatic in the circumstances. However this is an area that a new devolved justice department should review as a matter of urgency when it is established.

In this proposed model the elected members involved in the monitoring of police should be the same elected members involved in the Safer Belfast Partnership so that the work done with local communities could provide additional information to councillors to assist in their role in monitoring the police. This monitoring role should continue to be carried out in public.

In addition, although the separation of Tiers within the partnership is again not ideal, this is considered to be pragmatic at this point in time and should also be subjected to a review by the new Department of Justice.

Q 10 To whom should an integrated partnership be accountable for each of its functions?

See comments to Question 9 above.

The model set out on page 33 describes a number of accountability arrangements which have the potential to lead to confusion and duplication of effort.

The Council considers that these structures and arrangements will be a matter for the new Department for Justice to consider once established. In addition, as the community planning framework develops over the next few months, the question of scrutiny over the delivery of the community plan will be tested and new arrangements may emerge.

Whatever arrangements are put in place, there is a political aspiration that elected members are involved in determining the allocation of resources in pursuit of a safer area and also in monitoring the performance of the police service and other agencies at a local level. Thinking around this proposal

needs to be developed further with local councillors and MLAs through the appropriate political systems.

Q 11. How should an integrated partnership be resourced?

Resources should be coordinated through the local council, with the council contributing a capped percentage to the administration of the partnership. The remaining costs should be met by the Department of Justice.

It is vital that the resources currently allocated to both DPPs and CSPs from the Policing Board and CSU are not reduced even if savings are made by reducing the number of partnerships. There is currently significant under investment in community safety work and Belfast City Council believes that any savings should be re-invested in programmes to improve safety.

It is also important to emphasise that DPP's are currently funded only to undertake monitoring and a degree of public consultation. They have little or no operational capacity and this gap needs to be addressed in the new arrangements.

Q 12. How much is needed in the future for administration?

Until the function and structure of an integrated partnership is finalised it is impossible to estimate the cost of future administration.

It is clear that there will be efficiency savings by reducing the number of partnerships. However this money should be re-invested in programme work. There will be considerable expectations from the community when the two partnerships are brought together and if there is not more money to invest in interventions, there could be considerable frustration.

Q 13. What would an integrated partnership plan look like?

It should be formatted to include medium (1 year) and longer term aspirations and projects (3 -4 years) as well as requiring a mechanism to respond to emerging issues on an ongoing basis. This is in line with the development of annual and 3 – 4 year Safer Belfast Plan.

The plan should eventually align to the strategic framework set by the Community Planning Partnership.

An integrated plan means that it will include actions around all of the functions agreed for the partnership, including consultation and monitoring of the policing plan. Eventually the local policing plan could potentially form a section of the integrated plan.

There should be clear actions and targets. A public version of the plan would be helpful to help communicate a joined up approach to the safety agenda.

Q 14. What should the new partnership be called?

The new name of the partnership should reflect a change from what currently exists and should not imply that one partnership is 'taking over' the other. The suggestion in this response is 'Safer <<area name>> Partnership', e.g. Safer Belfast Partnership.

Q 15. What measures could be taken to bring community safety partnerships and district policing partnerships closer together, short of integration into a single partnership?

Belfast City Council recommends that area specific measures are developed locally and agreed with the Policing Board and the NIO, Community Safety Unit.

In addition, the Council considers that better integration could be achieved by:

- One senior manager should ideally have responsibility for the safety agenda within each council and ideally the staff teams should be brought together. It is important to recognise that the aspiration of better joint working may require some changes to the roles of both teams; this will have to be agreed with Belfast City Council, the staff and with the Policing Board and the Community Safety Unit.
 - The meetings in public and forums for discussion should be scheduled to inform the wider community safety planning and ongoing tasking process. To succeed in this, agreement should be reached about the format of these meetings to make them meaningful, to show action and to allow for the District Policing Partnership to meet its statutory requirements. This will require the co-operation of the NIPB and changes will be required to the Code of Practice and, potentially, to legislation.
 - Both partnerships should share information about the groups they are working with across the area, and any opportunities to rationalise this work should be pursued.
 - There should be joint agenda setting for the two partnerships.
 - The DPP and CSP should be involved in any community engagement planning undertaken by the other partnership or other parts of the Council (for example area based delivery in Belfast) so that a more joined up approach can be developed.
-

- The public consultation due in 2010 should be commissioned jointly by both partnerships (this happened in Belfast in 2007).
- The planning cycles of both the DPP and the CSP need to be synchronised.

It should be noted that many of the above suggestions will require agreement between the Policing Board and the CSU. It is also vital that the review group be tasked with identifying what legislative change will be necessary to enable an integrated partnership in the longer term and that steps are taken to move this forward.

Q 16. Should the working group be tasked with agreeing these measures and overseeing their implementation, as an early priority?

Belfast City Council agrees that the working group should be tasked with taking this forward as soon as possible. However, as the situation with RPA and the devolution of criminal justice will continue to change and take shape in the coming months, it is considered vital that an ongoing dialogue is maintained with councils as the proposals progress.

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Appendix 2(a)

Chairperson, Northern Ireland Policing Board
Council Chief Executives
Chairpersons, Community Safety Partnerships
Chairpersons, District Policing Partnerships
CSP Managers
DPP Managers

17 July 2009

Dear colleague,

I wrote to you on 19 March inviting your views on the future delivery of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and District Policing Partnership (DPP) functions. In response to requests that I extend the consultation period to allow for proper consideration of the many important issues contained in the consultation document, I subsequently agreed to split the consultation into two parts so as to give you more time to respond on the detail of a future model for partnership working.

I am now writing to you regarding the outcomes of the first phase of the consultation, in which we asked you to let us have your views on the following issues:

- whether you agree in principle that we should be aiming to create fully integrated partnerships at local level as the new councils come into being in May 2011; and
- what practical measures could be taken immediately to more closely align existing CSP and DPP arrangements.

You will see from the attached summary that there is clear support for bringing the existing functions together into a single partnership, with a

substantial proportion of respondents indicating they believe this to be the right way forward. While I am greatly encouraged by the overwhelming support for the principle of a single partnership, I have looked closely at the reasons why others felt they could not agree. These centred mainly on a belief that the respective roles of these partnerships are distinct and a fear that integration would, in particular, dilute the existing arrangements for ensuring that the police are accountable to their local communities. There were also concerns expressed that we are proceeding with developing our plans ahead of a framework for community planning being in place. It would be wrong of me to set these concerns aside, and I am happy to confirm that we will be very mindful of these important considerations as we take this work forward.

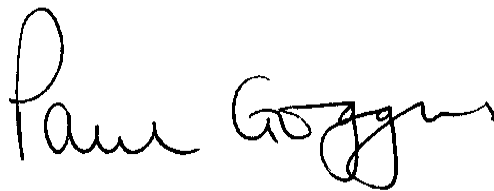
We also received a number of useful suggestions on how we can build upon the co-operation that already happens between CSPs and DPPs. I am reinforced in my view, therefore, that we should move quickly to further align the existing partnerships and the attached paper sets out how we intend to achieve this. I have taken into account that some changes might take more time, and that there are variations in current practice. We must also ensure that we complement as far as possible the transition process for the creation of the new councils. But the many examples of good practice that have been put forward clearly show that close co-operation is not just possible but is beneficial to the local communities which these partnerships serve. We need to maintain momentum, and it is my expectation that by this autumn we will have reached the first staging post described in the paper.

A Local Partnership Working Group has now been established, and includes officials from the NIO, the Policing Board, the police and local government. The group also includes a representative of the DOE's Local Government Policy Division, in order to ensure that we are working with the grain of the development of community planning as we take this review forward. The Working Group has looked at the outcomes of the first phase of the consultation and produced the proposals in the attached paper, which I have accepted. I have decided to keep the membership of this group relatively

small, but I am conscious of the need for us to continue to engage with all of the key stakeholders and I have asked my officials to ensure that you are kept fully informed. To this end, we are planning to hold a stakeholder event in the early autumn to brief you on progress and allow you to continue to contribute fully to this important debate.

I am very grateful indeed for the high level of response and for the quality of the submissions received. It is evident that a great deal of serious thought has gone into the responses and that you are as committed as I am to ensuring we put the right plans in place to meet future challenges.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Goggins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

**RT HON PAUL GOGGINS MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

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SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Question 1

Do you agree in principle that we should be aiming to create fully integrated partnerships at local level as the new councils come into being in May 2011?

Comments received

57 responses were received to this question, with four fifths of respondents indicating that they were in favour of an integrated partnership.

Those in favour of an integrated partnership felt there is an obvious overlap in duties performed by DPPs/CSPs, and that the proposal to integrate them is therefore a logical and welcome path to take. As well as being an opportunity to avoid duplication and confusion, it was thought it could also deliver better value for money. Many respondents believed that councils should be given a leading role and allowed as much flexibility as possible to tailor local arrangements to best meet local needs. This would be particularly important with the advent of community planning, and it was noted that it was crucially important for the plans and timetables for both pieces of work to be dovetailed.

Some respondents suggested that the scope of the review should be widened to consider linkages to other existing partnerships (such as PACTs). The issue of the lack of co-terminosity between policing districts and council boundaries was also highlighted, and it was noted that this would need to be carefully managed.

Some respondents, while agreeable in principle, affirmed their concern that the good practice that is already in place should not diminish.

Those who disagreed in principle to integrating the partnerships expressed the view that DPPs and CSPs currently fulfil very distinctive roles and felt this distinction should be retained. In particular, they believed there was a continuing need to independently monitor police performance and that integration risked diluting the monitoring functions and identity of the DPP. There was also concern expressed that moving ahead with this exercise too quickly risked leaving us out of step with the future framework for community planning, which is still at the early stages of development, or cause us to miss the opportunity to maximise potential synergies (on, for instance, good relations).

A number of respondents also flagged up that the timescale for creating the new partnerships was likely to be very challenging, with some suggesting it might be preferable to phase in the changes. Others felt, however, that we needed to press on in recognition of the impact on staff of continuing uncertainty.

There was a high level of consensus that the new partnership would require statutory underpinning, and that the principal focus needed to be on meeting local needs. Some respondents thought it would be more correct to refer to the new partnership as a “single” (rather than “integrated”) partnership since some differentiation between monitoring and delivery would still be required.

Finally, a number of respondents emphasised the need for the NIO and Northern Ireland Policing Board to work closely together as the review progresses.

Response

We welcome the fact that a clear majority of responses were in favour of creating a single partnership in each council area. However, we take note of the concerns that have been expressed, and suggestions offered, and will ensure these are factored into how we take forward the outcomes from next

stage of the consultation, which will deal with the creation of the new model. In particular, we will ensure that our plans complement ongoing work on the development of a community planning framework and that the quality of the delivery of the partnerships' existing functions is not diminished. We agree that the new arrangements will need to be enshrined in legislation and will factor this into our forward planning. Both the NIO and NI Policing Board agree that it will be important that they work closely together on how this work is taken forward. There has been a great deal of positive co-operation already and the commitment is there for this to continue.

Question 2

What steps can be taken now to more closely align the existing Partnerships?

Comments received

About half the respondents who gave a positive response to the first question also provided information in relation to this question. There was naturally a greater appetite for close working in those areas where it already happens but it was evident that different areas were starting from different points and there was a wide range of experiences.

A number of responses identified options in terms of both processes and projects and included suggestions on ensuring clear roles/responsibility and accountability and the need to formalise agreement in advance of greater integration. A number of different bodies favoured having the same Chairperson for both Partnerships but others questioned whether the fact that the CSP Action Plans have been agreed for the next two year would restrict the scope for closer working.

The recommendations broadly fell under either the sharing of information and resources or joint working at a variety of levels. These are summarised below under these headings.

Shared:

- public engagement events;
- statistical or other information;
- line management;
- work programme;
- admin support; and
- accommodation.

Joint:

- Chair;
- Membership;

- project working;
- press releases;
- surveys & questionnaires;
- conferences/training events;
- Chairs/Vice Chairs of sub-groups;
- meetings of sub-groups;
- attendance at public and private events & meetings (including CSP attendance at DPP Private Meetings); and
- reciprocal reporting arrangements.

Certain types of projects were highlighted as being particularly fruitful areas for closer co-operation, including:

- Neighbourhood Watch;
- anti-social behaviour initiatives;
- business crime projects; and
- crime prevention campaigns.

Response

A number of examples of good practice were received, which demonstrate that close co-operation is not only possible but can deliver positive benefits to local communities.

The picture across all 26 council areas shows that different areas are starting from different points and have varying distances to travel to achieve the optimal level of co-operation. It is probably unrealistic, therefore, to attempt to achieve uniform good practice in one leap and it would seem to be more practical to consider what graduated steps might be taken and over what timescale.

In order to maintain the momentum for change we wish to highlight to all partners that the interim steps we propose should be seen as the minimum that is expected. Those partnerships who have already achieved this level of local co-operation are encouraged to continue to find ways of moving further towards single partnership working. All moves towards closer links must be

fully endorsed, and will be closely monitored, by both NIO and the Policing Board (as the respective funding bodies) to ensure maximum local buy-in.

The first staging post should be this autumn, by which time we are asking each council area to work to achieve the following:

- Sharing of information between the partnerships;
- Reciprocal reporting arrangement to be put in place (for each partnership to notify the other of its main activities and outcomes, and with a view to informing joint plans);
- Sharing consultation and priority setting to assist the development of future local policing plans;
- Shared public engagement events;
- Each area to identify a couple of joint projects for collaboration; and
- Some members of the DPP attending the CSP meetings and vice versa.

These changes should not require any structural or contractual changes and are, therefore, capable of being implemented very quickly. Since they represent a floor rather than a ceiling, other opportunities should be grasped to improve co-operation should be grasped whenever they arise – for instance at the point at which contracts are being renewed, accommodation moves are being planned, etc. Councils should, of course, be mindful of the wider transition process in implementing any changes and may wish to consult within their clusters on how best to complement this process.

The next staging post will be spring 2010, by which time we would expect most areas to be at, or very close to, the current exemplars of good practice. In order to assist partners in preparing for this, we plan to hold an event in the early autumn, when we will have developed further the detail of the future model. The event will include presentations from those areas acknowledged as operating “good practice”, and will be designed to help stimulate ideas for how the next staging post can be achieved.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Swine Flu Pandemic - Management and Reporting of Absence
Date:	21st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Salmon, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer :	Jill Minne - Head of Human Resources, extension 3220

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to agree arrangements for the reporting and management of absence related to pandemic flu.

Relevant Background Information

The Council's Pandemic Plan Working Group has been working with departments to ensure that essential council services have robust plans in place to ensure business continuity in the event of a flu pandemic. Mechanisms are in place for ongoing consultation and communication in relation to these issues with all relevant stakeholders, including staff and trade unions.

The main impact of the pandemic on the Council will be the absence of staff. It is therefore vital to ensure that absence is managed appropriately and that its impact on the provision of vital services is minimised. Business continuity plans have been developed for essential services and the council now needs to consider the way in which absence related to the swine flu pandemic is managed and reported.

Key issues

Following consultation with other local councils through the Local Government Emergency Management Group and research with the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the following is proposed:

Reporting of Absence

Swine flu related absence will be reported and categorised separately to all other reasons for absence.

Management of Absence

It is proposed that an absence of up to 7 calendar days due to Swine Flu or Swine Flu like symptoms will not be taken into account for the issuing of warnings under the council's absence policy.

It is also likely that there will be a demand for leave from staff to look after sick dependants and relatives. Council policy makes provision for special unpaid leave to enable caring responsibilities to be discharged if employees are unable to meet these responsibilities using their annual and/or flexi-time leave. It is proposed that this policy is used in relation to staff that need to look after dependents as a result of the pandemic. In addition line managers, in conjunction with HR staff may give consideration to measures that might assist by, for example: adjustments to flexi-time or to annual leave provision to enable staff to draw leave from another period and exploring ways to mitigate the impact of financial loss.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the proposed arrangements for the reporting and management of absence related to pandemic flu in order that the Head of Human Resources can advise the Council's trade unions and issue guidance to staff and managers in this regard.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Absence Management
Date:	21st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Jill Minne, Head of Human Resources, ext 3220

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the council's performance in managing absence during quarter one, April – June, 2009.

Relevant Background Information

In 2008/09, the average number of days lost per full time employee was 11.22 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed an overall Council target to reduce to 10.50 days by 2010/11.

Key Issues

Absence Management Performance Quarter One April – June 2009

- The following are the key absence performance indicators for quarter one, April – June 2009. The attached appendix provides absence rates at corporate, department and service levels against target and performance for the same time last year, as requested by members.
- The average number of working days lost per FTE for quarter one for this year is 2.72 days
- The average number of working days lost per FTE for last quarter (quarter four of 2008/09) was 3.02 days
- The average number of working days lost per FTE for the same quarter last year (quarter one 2008/09) was 2.79 days.
- This represents a reduction of 0.30 day for quarter four last year and 0.07 day for the same time last year.
- This means that at quarter one the council is on target.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75.35% of staff had no absence during quarter one of this year. This represents an increase for the same time last year when 75.31% of staff had no absence.• 5.19% of the council's staff were categorised as long term absent. This represents a decrease from the same time last year of 5.29%
Recommendation
Members are asked to note the performance figures for quarter one 2009/10
Documents Attached
Quarter one performance indicators

Appendix					
Number of employees (FTE for quarter one) April - June 2009	% of BCC'S workforce		Target for quarter one, 2009/10 (average days absence per employee)	Actual average days absence per employee for quarter one 2009/10	Average days per employee for quarter one last year
2395		BCC	2.71	2.72	2.79
85.34	3.56	Chief Executive's Department	2.68	1.91	2.98
18.81	0.79	Corporate Communications	3.97	1.52	5.92
32.81	1.37	Committee & Member Services	2.72	0.56	3.97
16.50	0.69	Secretariat and Business Supp	2.24	6.66	0.54
17.22	0.72	Good Relations	1.55	0.35	0.15
21.03	0.88	Legal Services Department	1.00	0.47	0
498.80	20.83	Corporate Services Department	2.29	2.33	2.13
67.35	2.81	Human Resources (includes BIS)	1.51	1.23	1.32
47.89	2.00	Financial Services	3.27	2.13	4.96
118.27	4.94	ISB	1.75	1.17	1.04
230.03	9.60	Facilities Management	2.78	3.5	2.49
11.65	0.49	Audit, Gov & Risk Services	2.42	0.19	0.73
6.00	0.25	Projects & Corporate Systems	0.71	0	0.67
17.62	0.74	Directorate Support (includes BDM)	0.86	1.87	3.36
826.38	34.50	Health & Environmental Services Dpt.	2.72	2.72	3.03
167.82	7.01	Environmental Health Service	2.41	1.74	2.52
69.73	2.91	Building Control	1.44	1.28	1.76
471.06	19.67	Cleansing	3.02	3.25	3.66
99.20	4.14	Waste Management	3.03	3.41	2.11
18.57	0.78	Directorate Support	1.22	0.11	0.18

634.51	26.49	Parks and Leisure Department	3.19	3.71	2.97
296.37	12.37	Leisure	3.49	3.26	3.4
324.35	13.54	Parks and Cemeteries	3.00	4.12	2.62
13.80	0.58	Directorate Support	0.96	3.33	0.71
272.90	11.39	Development Department	2.48	2.25	2.98
45.75	1.91	Economic Initiatives	2.67	1.02	3.46
119.81	5.00	Community	3.02	3.16	3.24
57.80	2.41	Waterfront & Ulster Hall	1.54	0.40	2.25
49.54	2.07	Directorate Support	2.07	3.33	2.4
56.79	2.37	Core Improvement Team	2.18	1.76	2.34
29.73	1.24	Improvement Unit	1.18	2.09	0.69
7.26	0.30	Estates Management	2.46	0	0.15
9.80	0.41	Procurement	7.40	3.57	12.79
10.00	0.42	Project Management	0.79	0.3	0.17



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Disposal of Land at 702 Antrim Road, Belfast
Date:	21st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext. 6217.
Contact Officer:	Ken Anderson, Estates Surveyor, Core Improvement, Ext. 3496.

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting on 12 February 2009 the Parks and Leisure Committee received a report entitled "Interim Policy on Land Disposal". Among other things the report recommended that the Council should progress with three enquiries already received from members of the public to purchase portions of park at different locations across the city. An extract from the Committee minute is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Officers have been in contact with all three prospective purchasers and in respect of the land adjoining 702 Antrim Road, can now report agreement on terms of disposal in accordance with the above mentioned Parks and Leisure Committee decision. Agreed outline terms are:

- i) Area for disposal comprises approximately 131 square metres as outlined with a heavy black line on the attached map (Appendix 2)
- ii) Use of the land will be restricted to open space and to garden use in particular
- iii) Disposal price agreed at £11,250.
- iv) Purchasers will re-locate boundary fence at their own expense.

Key Issues

- Disposal of land in accordance with Parks and Leisure Committee decision of 12 February 2009.
- Terms of Disposal now agreed with prospective purchasers Mr & Mrs Curran.
- Approval of the Department of the Environment required in order to ensure disposal complies with the Local Government Act (NI) 1972.

Resource Implications

Financial

Small capital receipt, no additional revenue or capital costs to Council.

Human Resources

No additional human resources required. Resources in Estates Management Unit and Legal Services Department required to bring the disposal to a conclusion.

Asset and Other Implications

Loss of a small portion of Council land at boundary of Cavehill Country Park. The land has some tree cover and associated woodland undergrowth. It is of benefit to the owner of the dwelling at 702 Antrim Road by enlarging their limited garden amenity area and thus making the property more attractive. The proposed restriction on use to open space guards against redevelopment of this portion of the site for housing or other commercial purposes and helps retain a buffer between the park and neighbouring buildings.

Recommendations

Disposal of 131 square metres shown outlined with a heavy black line on the attached map (Appendix 2) at the price of £11,250 is recommended on the basis of the terms outlined in this report, to Mr & Mrs Curran, subject to a suitable legal agreement to be prepared by the Director of Legal Services and the approval of the disposal by the Department of the Environment.

Decision Tracking

Director of Improvement to arrange application to DOE by 30 November 2009 and completion of disposal by 31 March 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

DOE – Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Extract from minute of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 12 February 2009.

Appendix 2 – Map showing the land for disposal outlined with a heavy black line.

APPENDIX 1

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Parks and Leisure Committee,
Thursday, 12th February, 2009

As an interim measure, pending the development and approval of a revised Council Policy on this land acquisition and disposal, it is proposed that the Council does not dispose of public open space land unless it has been declared surplus to requirements. It is proposed that this be implemented with immediate effect subject to the following exceptions.

The Committee is asked to note that there are three outstanding requests from private individuals seeking the disposal of open space land for domestic purposes. The requests relate to properties at: 702 Antrim Road; 67 Schomberg Avenue; and 35 Brookvale Avenue.

In each of the above cases the Council has been requested to dispose of small pieces of land adjacent to each of the properties. In each case the owner of the property wishes to enhance their garden for personal use.

Given that these requests are already in the system it is proposed that the Council permit these disposals to proceed subject to agreement on appropriate terms in line with the requirements of the Local Government (NI) Act 1972 and on condition that there be no development on the land without Council consent in line with similar disposals in the past.

Resource Implications

Financial

There are no significant financial implications at this time, although the Council will benefit from a small capital receipt in relation to each of the proposed disposals outlined above.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications at this time.

Asset and Other Implications

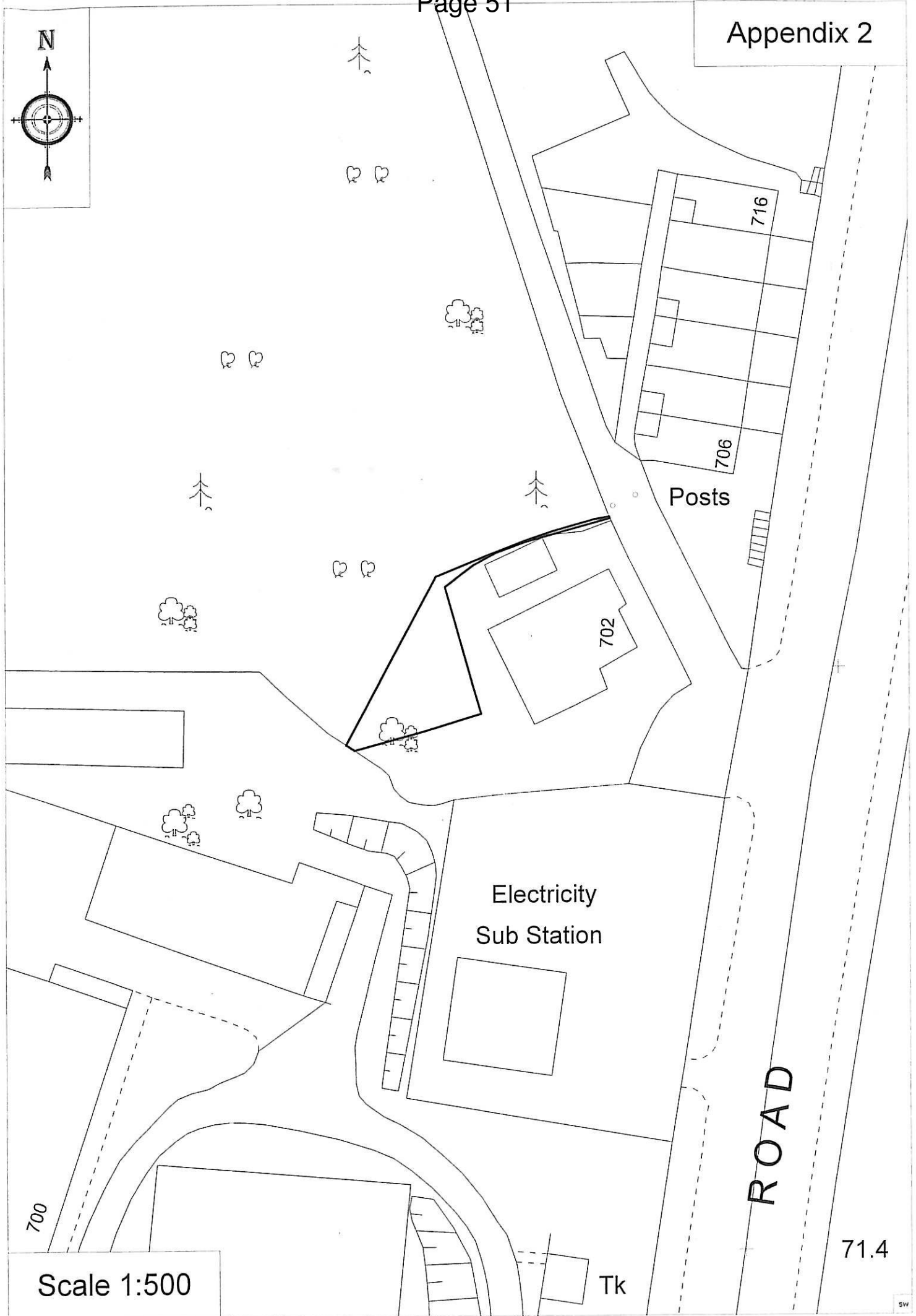
This proposal will support the taking of a more strategic approach to the disposal of Council land.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. agree to dispose three small parcels of land adjacent to the properties outlined above;**
- 2. agree that the land be disposed on condition that it be retained for use as open space;**
- 3. agree that the disposal should be within the terms of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972; and**
- 4. agree that as an interim measure, until an agreed Council policy on land acquisition and disposal has been agreed, all such requests be rejected unless the land has been declared as surplus to operational requirements and/or a better use for the asset has been identified subject to its disposal enhancing the quality and/or quantity of open space elsewhere in the City, especially in areas of greater need and/or enhancing the increased use of open space.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations, subject to notification of the disposal, in accordance with Standing Order 60, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Update
Date:	21st August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Core Improvement, Ext 3419

Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to coordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway Programme to proceed. The Council will secure rights over the land needed for the Greenway and shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of this land and any assets on the land. The Greenway must be accessible for 40 years to comply with the Big Lottery Fund letter of offer, although the intention is to secure rights for longer if possible.

Key Issues

Land owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) at Clarawood, Bloomfield Pde and Ladas Walk has been identified as being required to provide the Connswater Community Greenway route and associated landscaping. Council officials have agreed, subject to Committee approval, to purchase a 10000 year lease from the NIHE for each of the three areas of land for the sum of £5 each.

Resource Implications

Financial

The proposal requires an expenditure of £15 plus legal fees to purchase the land required. Land purchase costs are included within the Connswater Community Greenway budget included in the City Invest Fund and there will be no additional cost to Council.

Human Resources

No additional human resources required

Asset and Other Implications

The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the purchase of the lands outlined in red on the plans attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Decision Tracking

Action by Celine Dunlop to be completed by Dec 2009.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A.

Documents Attached

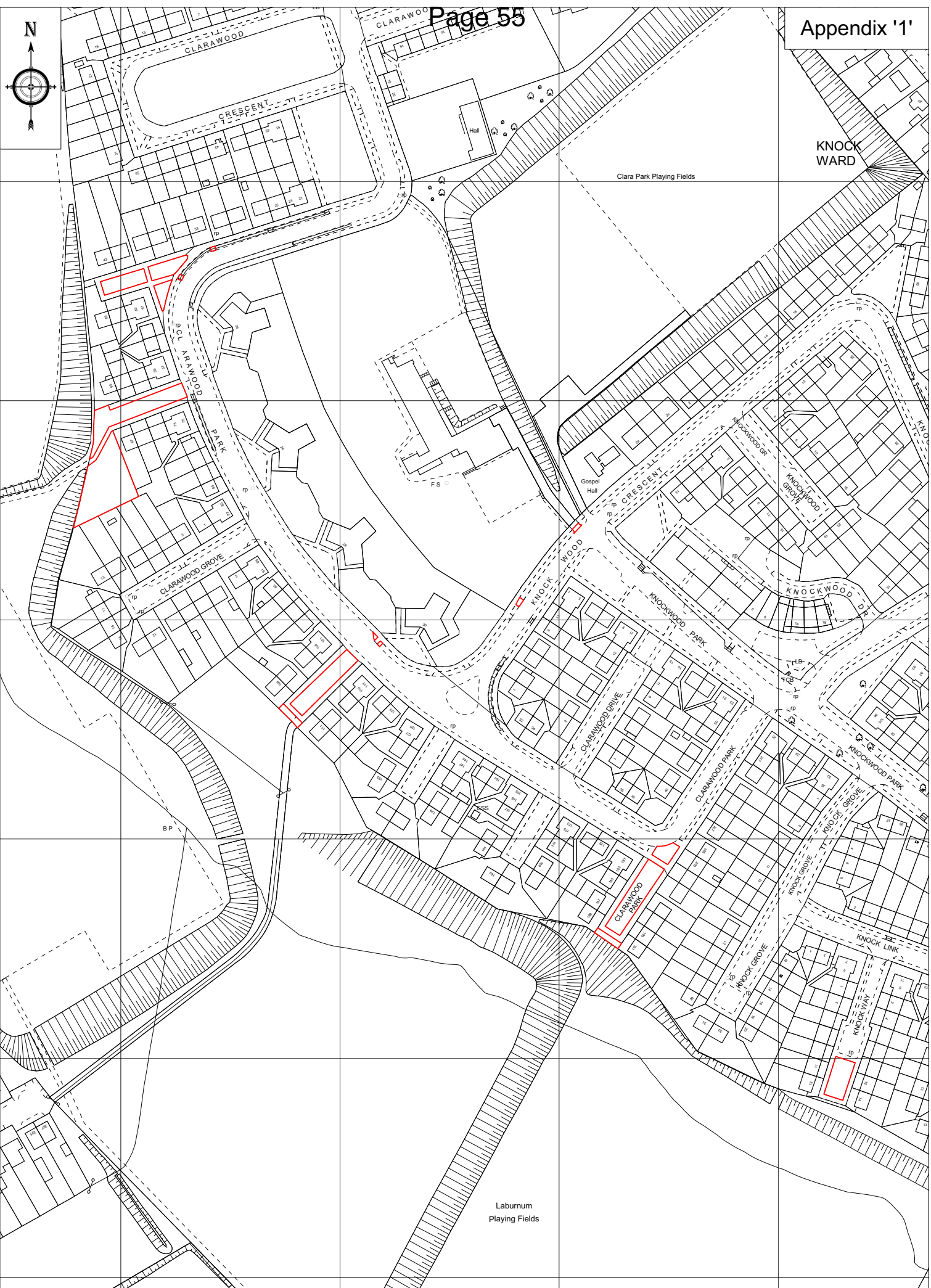
Plan at Appendix 1, 2 and 3.



KNOCK WARD

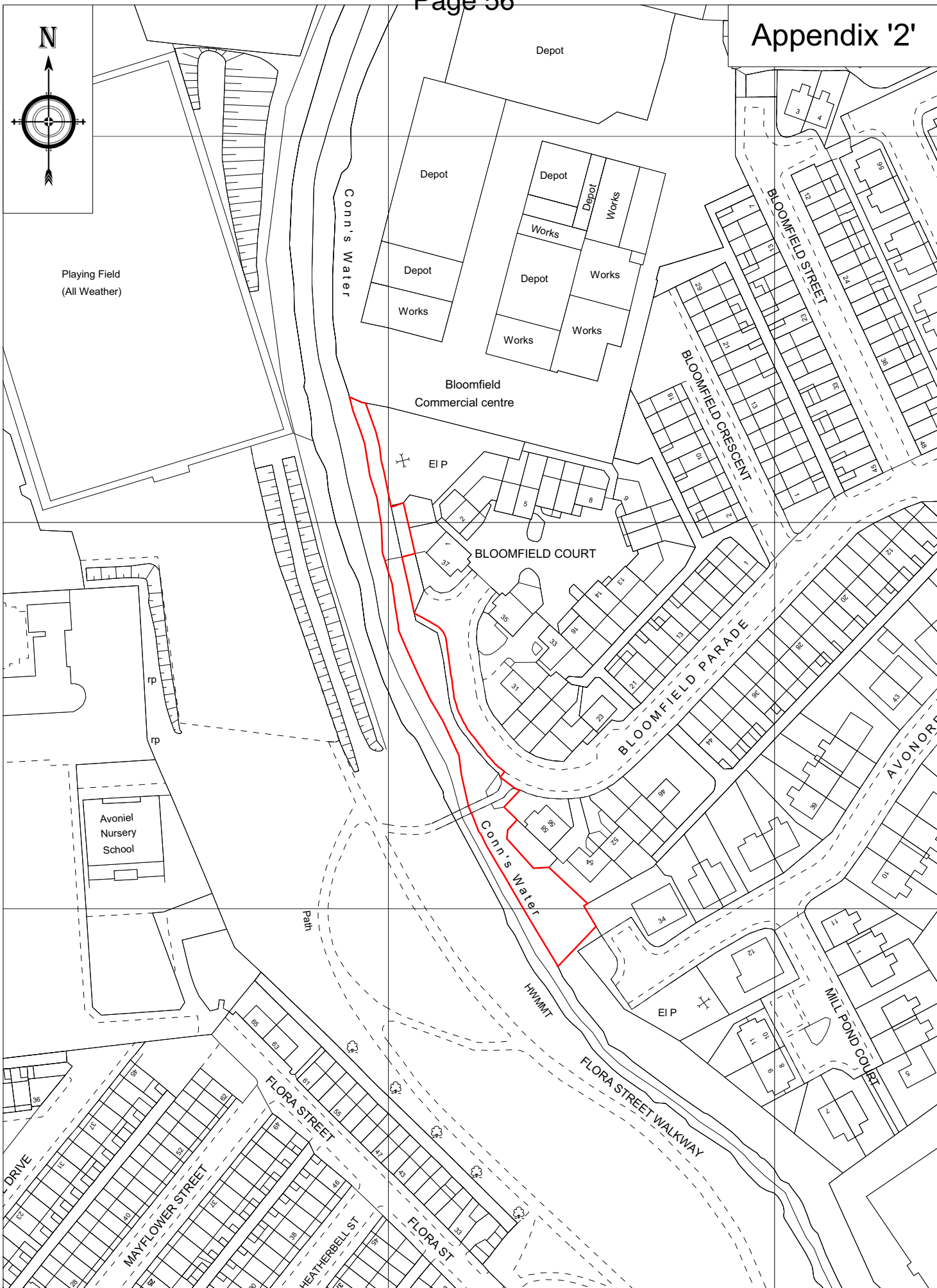
Clara Park Playing Fields

Laburnum Playing Fields





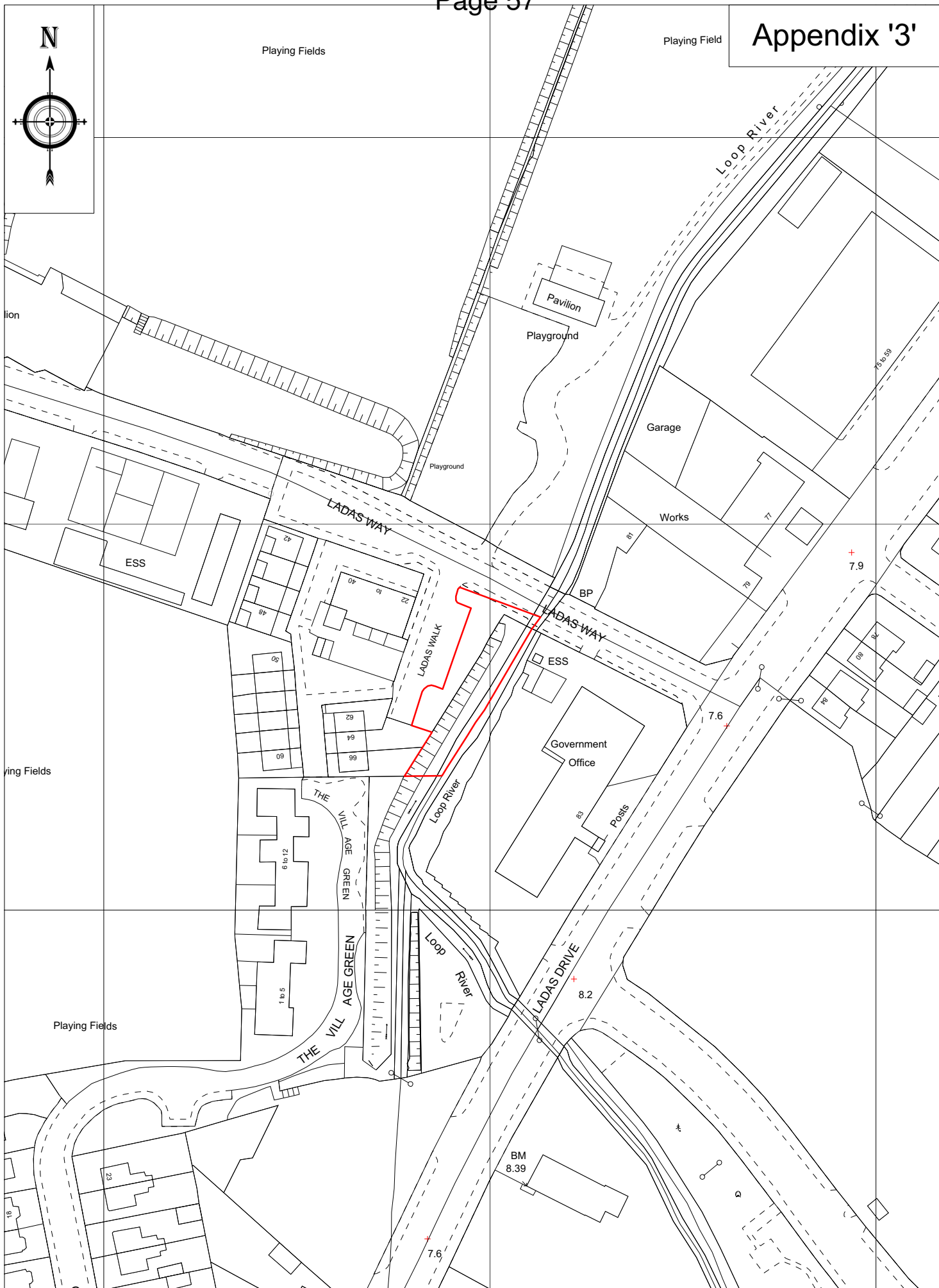
Playing Field
(All Weather)



Scale 1:1250

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 37

Area 0.282 acres



Scale 1:1250

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 64

Area 0.167 acres

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Dargan Road Landfill Closure Plan – Planned Future Works
Date:	21st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Michael Stanley, Capital Programme Manager, Ext: 3483

Relevant Background Information

The North Foreshore Closure Plan to discharge the Council's statutory responsibilities in respect of the former landfill site at Dargan Road includes

- a) the execution of capping works to contain landfill gas discharge,
- b) installation of landfill gas extraction and collection wells and pipework (from which the gas is delivered as fuel for the Council's electricity generation facility now on the site)
- c) associated civil engineering works.

These works are carried out in various sections of the site under a planned, rolling programme of separate contracts with Phase "1" of the capping works and Phase 6 of the gas extraction and collection installations currently underway.

Key Issues

For previous phases numerous reports have been presented to Committee for approval on an individual contract by contract basis; however, as the content of each contract is decided on civil engineering technical assessments within the overall programmed area, it is considered that it would be more appropriate for a report to be presented on an annual basis seeking broad approval to proceed to tender for the planned programme of works for the coming year.

Further phases of work are planned for progression following completion of the current phases, beginning in the autumn with Phase J Capping and Phase 7 Gas Extraction and Collection which need to proceed to tender now. Some drainage and gas migration prevention works, required to maintain the integrity of the capping, will also be required.

Contracts will be awarded for each tender on the basis of the most economically advantageous offer in terms of cost and quality in accordance with BCC's procurement procedures.

Resource Implications

The Capital Programme includes the North Foreshore Closure Plan as a *Committed* project and allowances of £5,550,000 and £6,000,000 have been made for planned capital expenditure during the 2009/10 and 10/11 financial years:

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee approves the invitation of tenders for:

- a) the execution of capping works to contain landfill gas discharge;
- b) installation of landfill gas extraction and collection wells and pipework (from which the gas is delivered as fuel for the Council's electricity generation facility now on the site); and
- c) associated civil engineering works;

over the next year, as necessitated by statutory and civil engineering requirements to discharge the Council's obligations.

Decision Tracking

It is anticipated that tenders for the various works set out above will be invited to a phased programme based on advice from the Council's civil engineering advisers for the Closure Works over the next year.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: **Capital Programme:
Replacement of Sports Hall Floor at Shankill Leisure Centre**

Date: 21st August, 2009

Reporting Officer: Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext: 6217

Contact Officer: Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager, Ext: 3555

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting of 11 June 2009, the Parks & Leisure Committee approved the submission of an application under the Sport NI Places for Sport fund proposing the upgrade of the sports hall floor at Shankill Leisure Centre.

The Council application was successful at stage one of the assessment process and the Council was invited to present pre-tender information to be assessed for stage two.

The Places for Sport programme provides funding for projects which build or upgrade playing surfaces and can demonstrate strategic fit and additionality through increased participation in sport in Northern Ireland. Proposed projects, in the first year of this funding package, must be in a high "state of readiness", with all relevant approvals in place in order to complete project spend by 31 March 2010. The programme provides up to £245,000 for capital projects - to which local authorities must make a contribution of approximately 25% to works costs, as well as all design costs.

Key Issues

At its meeting on 13 August 2008, the Parks & Leisure Committee approved the preparation and management of a tender for the refurbishment of the sports floor at Shankill LC and authorised the delegation of the development of a select list and acceptance of the successful construction tender to Director of Parks and Leisure.

A proposal for the replacement of the sports floor at Shankill LC was previously submitted for the Capital Programme but remains "*uncommitted*" due to the continuing uncertainty as to the affordability of capital funding.

The floor is in poor condition and if it is not replaced in the near future soon it will become unusable and the main hall will have to be closed.

The timescale set by Sport NI means that the proposal has not been through any prioritisation mechanism; however, the later stages of the Council's Gates process will be applied throughout the development and delivery of the project.

Resource Implications

Approval by the Committee would be stepping outside the agreed process for approval of capital projects but the potential grant aid presents an opportunity to proceed with the proposal at a significantly reduced cost to the Council of approximately £50,000 against the overall anticipated cost of £163,000.

The Parks & Leisure Department have confirmed that the expenditure will be met from reallocations within the existing revenue budget and consequently no capital expenditure is required.

However, a requirement of the grant is that expenditure is authorised by Councils Transition Committees as expenditure will happen in the 2010/11.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider the decision of the Parks & Leisure Committee to proceed with the replacement of the floor at Shankill LC and to approve the invitation of tenders, subject to the award of grant aid from the Sport NI Places for Sport fund and that any contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous offer in terms of cost and quality in accordance with BCC's procurement procedures.

Decision Tracking

It is anticipated that decision of Sport NI regarding stage two of the funding application will be advised in October 2009.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Use of memorabilia in City Hall
Date:	21 st August 2009
Reporting Officer:	G Wright – Head of Facilities Management, Extensions 5206/6232
Contact Officer:	As above

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting of June 2009, the Committee reviewed the minutes of the Commemorations and Memorabilia Working Group, and resolved that *"the Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group of 20th May and agreed that the Working Group be advised that no recommendations would be adopted by the Council until such times as a report on all the actions which had been agreed in relation to the location of memorabilia in the City Hall had been submitted to the Committee for consideration, thereby providing the Members with an overall view of the proposals"*.

The purpose of this report is therefore to outline the decisions already taken with regard to this matter and to provide some additional detail as requested by the Committee.

Members will recall that, in October 2008, a report was tabled by the Head of Facilities Management in respect of the revised approach to tours and the associated impact on the proposed uses of art, artefacts and other memorabilia held by the Council. That report recommended the creation of seven principal themes, namely:-

1. the history of the City Hall (located in the marble area);	5. the Titanic & Belfast's Lord Mayors (located in the Banqueting Hall);
2. our 'Freedom of the City' recipients (located in the Rotunda area);	6. the civic regalia (located in the Robing Room); and
3. Belfast in the 2 World Wars (located in the Rotunda area);	7. a display of civic gifts received by the city (located in the East Entrance area).
4. notable Belfast citizens (located in the Reception Hall);	

On foot of these themes a number of items were to be used in different ways. The principal changes recommended in the report were as follows:-

- the Covenant table will remain in the Council Chamber but would be supplemented with archive photographs of the signing of the covenant in 1912, new signage and additional historical material while tours are in progress;
- the civic regalia including maces, chains of office and robes currently stored in the Lord Mayor's Parlour would be moved to public view in the Robing Room;
- the Seaman Maginess portrait would be moved from the Robing Room to the Rotunda;
- a number of items connected with the Freedom of the City including caskets and scrolls currently in the Reception Hall and crystal in the Lord Mayor's Parlour and silver keys currently in storage would be brought together in a display on the Rotunda;
- the "No Mean City" display (suitably updated) which was previously located on the ground floor west corridor would be moved to the Reception Hall to form the central part of a Belfast Citizens exhibit (note: location now changed to be adjacent to the new exhibition area) ;
- a number of items connected with the history of the City Hall including the black and white photographs in the Robing Room and the charters, silver trowel and gavel in the Reception Hall would be brought together and put on permanent display in dedicated display cases in the marble area;
- the portraits of Sir Edward Harland and Viscount & Viscountess Pirrie currently in the Council Chamber & Reception Hall would be moved to the Banqueting Hall; and
- a number of crystal and silver items presented to the city and currently in storage or in the Lord Mayor's Parlour would be brought together in a new display in the East entrance area.

Considerably more detail in respect of each of the themed areas and the proposed uses of current memorabilia can be found in the attached appendix.

The Committee endorsed these proposals on the grounds that (a) they were necessary in the context of enhancing the tour offering within the building and (b) that they provided an opportunity to comply with some outstanding recommendations contained in the of the Advisory Panel on City Hall Memorabilia submitted in February 2003.

While the relevant officers are, of course, prepared to review the current proposals, the Committee will also be aware that the scheduled re-opening date for the City Hall is 5th October 2009 and that the final tour offering must be in place for that date. Planning for this is at an advanced stage, so it is hoped that the information contained herein will be acceptable to the Committee and that the necessary work can proceed as originally planned.

However, should the Committee wish to see any significant changes or additions made to current proposals, these can be discussed with the Commemorations and Memorabilia Working Group and the Good Relations Manager over the coming weeks and – hopefully - incorporated into the final designs in ways which will not necessitate a postponement of the tours commencement date.

Key Issues

The key issue is whether or not the Committee is content with current proposals in respect of memorabilia held by the council or would wish to re-consider this matter at this time.

Resource Implications

There will clearly be some resource implications if a decision is taken to review the current approach in any significant way, but it is difficult to quantify this.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee re-affirm its decision of October 2008 in respect of the revised approach to tours and the associated use of items of art, artefacts and other memorabilia owned or held by the council.

Decision Tracking

The target date for the delivery of the new, themed tour service remains 5th October 2009, however if significant changes are proposed this may alter.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

Appendix – detailed proposed locations for items of BCC art, artefacts & memorabilia

CITY HALL TOURS**Themed Displays****Theme 1: THE HISTORY OF THE CITY HALL**

Location: **MAIN MARBLE AREA – 2 cabinets either side of main entrance**

- a) King James 1 Charter (original Charter by King James1 giving Belfast Corporate Borough Status)
- b) City Charter (City Charter granted by Queen Victoria in 1888.)
- c) Original Coat of Arms (Belfast Coat of Arms on the basis of the Grant of Arms which was confirmed by Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms.)
- d) Ceremonial Trowel (actual trowel used in the laying of the Foundation Stone, Belfast City Hall 18th October 1898.)
- e) Gavel (gavel presented to His Excellency Earl Cadogan KC on the occasion of the Laying of the Foundation Stone 1898.)
- f) Original Drawing of City Hall (original drawing of City Hall by Architect A. Brumwell Thomas.)
- g) Montage of building of City Hall to include :
 - Photograph Foundation Stone (print of photograph 'Foundation Stone' 1898)
 - City Hall 1903 (print of a photograph of City Hall looking up Royal Avenue, tram in view, evidence of River Farset.
 - City Hall 1904 (print of photograph of City Hall under Construction)
 - City Hall 1906 (City Hall completed 1906)
 - Brumwell Thomas (photograph of Brumwell Thomas, Architect)
 - Old Town Hall (photograph of Old Town Hall, Victoria Street)
 - White Linen Hall (photograph, White Linen Hall (Front))
 - White Linen Hall (photograph, Linen Hall (Back))
 - Drawing of City Hall (photograph of A. Brumwell Thomas's original plans.)
 - City Hall 1902 (Photograph City Hall 1902 under construction)

- H + J Martin Builders (photograph of Henry John Martin, Director of H&J Martin Building Contractors of City Hall.)
-

Theme 2: FREEDOM OF THE CITY

Location: ROTUNDA - immediately below Lady McCullagh's Window

- a) Viscountess Pirrie – Freedom Scroll (Margaret Montgomery Pirrie of Ormiston 1st Burgess of the City, for services in raising funds for the erection equipment and endowment of the Royal Victoria Hospital. Illuminated Certificate incorporating illustrations of hospital ward, Royal Victoria Hospital.)
 - b) Viscount William Pirrie – Freedom Scroll (Ald. Rt. Hon William James Pirrie, 1st Burgess, illuminated certificate incorporating illustrations of the coat of arms of City, family and ship in harbour.)
 - c) Viscount Pirrie – Freedom Casket (Presented to Ald. Rt. Hon. W.J. Pirrie 1st Burgess. (18ct Gold Freedom Casket)
 - d) Viscountess Pirrie – Freedom Casket (Presented to Viscountess Pirrie 1st Burgess, silver gilt in 18ct gold)
 - e) Lady McCullagh's – Freedom Casket (Silver lidded casket presented to Lady McCullagh)
 - f) Sir Crawford McCullagh's Freedom Casket (Silver lidded casket, presented to Sir Crawford McCullagh.)
 - g) RAF Aldergrove Crystal Bowl (presented by RAF Aldergrove to the City of Belfast 25th Anniversary of the conferment of Freedom of the City. Oct 1982)
- Merchant Navy Globe (presented to the City of Belfast by the Merchant Navy on the occasion of the conferment of the Freedom of the City 30th April
- a) Freedom of the City Book (Freedom of the City Certificates from 1898 to present)
 - j) Ambulance Service (presentation piece engraved with an ambulance badge)
 - k) Fire Service (Presentation piece – glass sculpture of six causeway stones engraved with badge of NI Fire Brigade. Inscribed City of Belfast conferment of the Freedom of the City on NI Fire Brigade 21st Aug.1992)

- l) Ceremonial Keys
City of Hollywood, Florida; Orlando, Florida, The City Beautiful, Pride of the southwest, Louisiana, City of Sulphur; Buffalo, NY: City of Canfield, City of Lexington, State of Kentucky, Seal of Kansas City, Missouri verso: Heart of America, The Scout, City of Beaumont Texas, City of Arlington, Texas.

Theme 3: WORLD WARS - THE EFFECT ON THE CITY

Location – ROTUNDA / left under Sir Crawford McCullagh's window & 1st World War window

1st WORLD WAR

- a) Notification of cessation of hostilities. (Letter sent by 107 Brigade 36 (Ulster) Division, notifying the cessation of hostilities 11th November 1918, presented to Lord Mayor of Belfast at the formation of 107 Brigade 2nd November 1988.)
- b) Strip of copper + 1913 penny. (Mounted on wood, presented by the Mayor Potie of Thiepval, 19th January 1989.)
- c) Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme. (Union Jack with J.P. Beadle painting in the centre with legend 'In memory of 38th (Ulster) Division, July 1st 1916, 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme')
- d) Sack of soil found at Battle of the Somme
- e) Statuette (china) of footballer of Loos. (boxing day match between German/British forces)

2nd WORLD WAR

- a) Leading Seaman Magennis V.C. – Print (Born Belfast 1919, died 1986, Northern Ireland's only recipient of the Victoria Cross during the second World War.)
- b) Tampion/ship telescope (Telescope from IJN Takao – 27/10/1946, Japanese warship destroyed by Leading Seaman Magennis)
- c) Steel spike found in City Hall courtyard after City Hall bombing in 1941
- d) Leading Seaman Magennis telegram to his mother informing her of his VC.

Theme 4: ITEMS REFLECTING COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE CITY

Location: RECEPTION HALL – cabinet under centre window

- a) Islamic Print (Print presented by the Islamic Community of Belfast to the Lord Mayor 2003)
- b) Chinese Peacocks (Presented to the Lord Mayor May 2003, by the Chinese Community)
- c) Indian Tower (Presented to the Lord Mayor 2003 by the Indian Community)
- d) Empty Promises (Empty Promises Opal Stone Sculpture, tribute to the women of Belfast, presented to the Lord Mayor 2003.) Artist : Arthur Manyengedzo, opal stone from Chiweshe in Zimbabwe 28/5/03
- e) Hebrew Bible (Hebrew Bible in tin covering, presented to the Lord Mayor of Belfast 6/6/1964)
- f) Al-Nisa Association N.I.(Framed coloured print with inscription “ Best among mankind is he who brings benefit to others” (Madith))
- g) Menorah (Silver Menorah (seven branched candlestick) inscribed “ This Menorah is a symbol of light and understanding presented to the Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Belfast and Citizens of the City of Belfast by the Belfast Hebrew Congregation 1964)
- h) Indian Sticks (Presented to the Lord Mayor by the Indian Community, May 2003)

Theme 5: CIVIC REGALIA

Location : ROBING ROOM – wall mounts & a cabinet

- a) Lord Mayor's Chain (Lord Mayor's Chain of Office, 1874, chain and badge 18ct. gold, weighs 14 lbs.
 - b) Donegall Chain (dates to 1784, chain and oval medallion.
 - c) Deputy Lord Mayor's Chain (double chain with 27 medallions linked)
 - d) High Sheriff's Chain (purchased in 1900, 18ct. gold)
 - e) Lady Mayoress's Chain (the chain dates back to 1897, first worn by Mrs. Pirrie. 18ct. gold, comprising of diamonds, rubies, turquoise, opals and enamel.
 - f) Lady Mayoress's bracelet
 - g) Lady Mayoress's badge
 - h) Silver Mace (Dating back to 1639)
 - i) Silver Mace 1679
 - j) Members of Council 1984
 - k) Past Members of Council (Members of Council 1979)
 - l) Past Members of Council 1976
 - m) Belfast City Council 1945 in City Hall Courtyard
 - n) Belfast Corporation 1948 – print
 - o) Original Members of the Members Club 1937
 - p) Alfred Shields, Mace Bearer 1868-1927 (Framed photograph)
 - q) Lord Mayor's Robe & civic regalia
 - r) High Sheriff's Robe & civic regalia
 - s) Councillors' Robes
 - t) Current City Mace 1937
-

Theme 6: TITANIC & BELFAST'S LORD MAYORS

Location: BANQUET HALL under portraits of Sir Edward Harland & Viscount Pirrie

Scaled Model of Titanic (from Events Office)

Porthole (from Titanic – Events office presented to Lord Mayor 2005)

Cabinet – range of artifacts supplied by Ulster Titanic Society (Una O'Reilly)

Theme 7: GIFTS presented to the City

Location: EAST ENTRANCE

(changeable – silver & crystal from City Council collection/Exhibition space for organizations & Community Groups).



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Options for Reducing Carbonaceous Emissions from the Council's Vehicle Fleet
Date:	21st August, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Mr. William Francey, Director of Health and Environmental Services (ext. 3260)
Contact Officer:	Alistair Curran, Sustainable Development Manager (extension 3309)

Relevant Background Information

At the Council meeting of 2nd March, 2009, Councillor Mullaghan proposed the following Notice of Motion relating to options for reducing carbonaceous emissions from the Council's vehicle fleet, 'As a contribution to its climate change agenda, Belfast city Council commits to a review of the options for reducing carbon emissions from its vehicle fleet, with a view to adopting a strategy with defined targets, the report on the review to be submitted to the Council within six months.'

The Committee, at its meeting on 20th March, adopted the Director of Health and Environmental Service's recommendation to authorise the preparation of a preliminary high-level review of options for reducing carbonaceous emissions from the vehicle fleet.

Vehicle Fleet background Information

During 2008, the Council's vehicle fleet consumed approximately 1,000,000 litres of diesel resulting in the generation of around 2,630 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Council has recently approved replacement of the fuel station at the main fuel storage facilities at Duncrue. It is anticipated that the new fuel management system will enable development of fuel consumption and CO₂ emission benchmarks

Manufacturer Reporting of Vehicle Carbon Dioxide Emissions

There is currently little European legislation requiring vehicle manufacturers to publish CO₂ emission factors for commercial vehicles. Preliminary communications suggest that the EU may adopt light commercial fleet average targets of 175g CO₂/km by 2012 and 160g CO₂/km by 2015. No comparable legislation is proposed however, for heavy goods vehicles

(HGVs) at this time. It should be noted however, that CO₂ emissions are proportional to the amount of fuel consumed and are generally lower in modern vehicles and in those with smaller engine displacements. In comparison to petrol, diesel vehicles have significantly lower CO₂ emissions per kilometre travelled due to the higher engine efficiency.

Governmental approach to reducing carbon dioxide emissions

With regard to minimising CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions, government has promoted a three step hierarchical approach of assessing emissions, reducing avoidable emissions and counter balancing non-avoidable emissions through offsetting.

Council fleet vehicle emission characteristics

In the case of private and light goods vehicles, the Council operates a range of relatively low emitting diesel vehicles, generating around 140g CO₂/km travelled. This emission rate is below the EU's proposed LCV targets and also compares favourably, for example, with the 'benchmark' Toyota Prius, which emits 104g CO₂/km travelled.

In terms of larger box vans, the Council predominantly operates a range of vehicles with typical emissions of around 210g CO₂/km travelled.

With regard to cleansing and refuse collection vehicles, some emit around 300g CO₂/km travelled whereas fully laden refuse collection vehicles could emit in excess of 600g CO₂/km travelled. The majority of Council fleet vehicles are less than 5 years old.

Key Issues

In terms of reducing CO₂ emissions from its vehicles, there is a range of measures, direct and indirect, that the Council could take as summarised below:-

The potential to introduce biofuels

Biofuels deliver carbon savings as the CO₂ that is emitted into the atmosphere when they are burned is offset by the amount of CO₂ that the crop absorbed as it grew. Unfortunately, first generation biofuels have come under scrutiny since their manufacture competes with food production and impacts detrimentally upon biodiversity. Second generation biofuels overcome these issues by being generated from the residual non-food parts of current crops however, the market is still very much in its infancy within the UK. In terms of vehicle maintenance, biodiesel acts as a detergent and consequently fuel filters typically have to be replaced more frequently to remove sludges. Moreover, biodiesel can attack fuel hoses and pump seals made from certain elastomers. Accordingly, the impact of biodiesel on vehicle warranties and maintenance programmes would have to be carefully considered prior to its introduction.

The potential to introduce biogas

Council could theoretically also consider the introduction of bio-methane gas from the North Foreshore as a road fuel. As with biodiesel, bio-methane gas, derived from organic waste, generates no net CO₂. Vehicles typically employ a dual fuel system, which enables the diesel engine to operate on bio-methane and diesel. Fuelling infrastructure would however, have to be installed to collect, clean, pressurise, store and distribute the gas. It should be noted that the Council has preferentially elected to generate electricity from the bio-methane at the North Foreshore, which is to be sold to the electricity grid thereby generating

financial revenue whilst displacing fossil fuels in conventional power stations.

Plug in refuse collection units

A 'plug in' refuse collection unit for waste vehicles driven by an electric motor and battery pack charged via off-peak environmentally friendly electricity has recently come on the market. The unit can also be charged from the chassis engine in order to ensure continuity of service. Electrical operation means that CO₂ emissions are zero during loading and compacting as the RCV is at standstill. It has been estimated that CO₂ emissions are reduced by 20% during a collection round.

Hybrid refuse collection vehicles.

A hybrid solution for refuse collection vehicles that combines a normal diesel engine with an electric motor and lithium ion battery has also been developed recently. The refuse vehicle accelerates under electric power alone, promoting lower fuel consumption and lower emissions with the diesel engine cutting in once speed and power outtake have stabilised. Field trials are ongoing although it is estimated that the FE Hybrid can reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 30%.

Zero Emission Vehicles

Alternative engine technologies are also entering the panel and box van market in the form of zero emission electric vehicles (ZEV). Electric commercial vehicles now have an average range of 100 miles and a top speed of up to 70 mph. Vehicles are charged overnight and provided that a non-fossil electricity supply is used, then they can be regarded as zero emission. Electricity generated at the North Foreshore site would constitute a suitable charging source.

Route Planning

Comprehensive route planning has the capacity to reduce CO₂ emissions by reducing distances travelled and by ensuring optimum utilisation of the vehicle fleet.

Costs and service implications of introducing lower carbon technologies

Emerging vehicle technologies such as those highlighted within this report normally engender a significant price premium over established technologies. Moreover, some of the technologies are proprietary in nature and are subject to ongoing marketplace development by manufacturers. Accordingly, if the Council was to devise a fleet carbon abatement strategy, cost and maintenance, alongside a requirement for continuity of service delivery, would be significant considerations.

Carbon offsetting

Once Council has eliminated its avoidable CO₂ emissions, it might choose to undertake carbon offsetting in order to achieve a 'carbon neutral' vehicle fleet. Presently, government assured carbon offsetting is available at around £16 per tonne of CO₂ emitted. The overall cost of offsetting the Council's current vehicle fleet CO₂ emissions, without additional control measures, would be therefore around £42,000 per annum. In evaluating potential control measures, it will be important to balance the financial and environmental considerations of offsetting against the cost of operating new fleet technologies and to have due regard to the public perception and reputational issues involved in adopting offsetting as a strategy rather than employing direct carbon abatement measures.

Resource Implications

Financial.

There will be sizeable additional costs associated with implementing many of the emerging vehicle technologies and significant lead times if wasteful expenditure is to be avoided. There will also be costs associated with offsetting residual fleet CO₂ emissions.

Human Resources.

Emerging fleet technologies such as hybrid and zero emission vehicles typically have different operational and maintenance requirements to conventional fossil-fuelled vehicles. Consequently, the Fleet Management Unit may have to develop additional expertise to service and maintain such vehicles.

Asset and other Implications.

Such implications will become clearer through additional research of the various options.

Recommendations

This report presents a preliminary high-level review of options for reducing carbonaceous emissions from the Council's vehicle fleet. These options have not been costed and, consequently, further research would be required to allow informed decisions in adopting a vehicle carbon abatement strategy.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is invited therefore to note the high-level options for reducing carbonaceous emissions from the Council's vehicle fleet.

The Committee is also invited to recommend that further research be undertaken to enable the development of a detailed carbon abatement strategy for the Council's vehicle fleet. This research will be undertaken with due regard to emerging legislation and will also form a component of the implementation of the new Transportation Policy, as adopted by Council at its meeting on 1st June 2009.

It is further recommended that the research be undertaken principally 'in house' by Fleet Management staff and the Council's Sustainable Development Manager. Where consultancy support is required to appraise specific fleet technologies, a project proposal detailing financial, human resource and asset resource requirements, will be presented to Committee for approval prior to inception.

Key to Abbreviations

CO ₂	-	carbon dioxide.
EU	-	European Union
g/km	-	grammes per kilometre.
LCV	-	light commercial vehicles.
HGV	-	heavy goods vehicle.
RCV	-	refuse collection vehicle.

Documents attached

N/A