### **People and Communities Committee**

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

#### MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson); Alderman Rodgers, Sandford and McCoubrey; and Councillors Austin, Copeland, Corr Johnston, Heading, Jones, Magennis, McCabe, McKee, Newton, O'Neill, Nicholl and Milne.
- In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services; Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director; Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director; and Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### <u>Apologies</u>

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Beattie.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of 7th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### <u>Request to Present to Committee –</u> <u>Belfast Healthy Cities</u>

The Committee agreed to invite representatives of the Belfast Healthy Cities to present at a future meeting of the Committee on its work programme in relation to the 2016 World Health Organisation International Cities Conference.

#### **Committee/Strategic Issues**

#### Minutes of Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group held on 6th March, the following key issues had been considered:

- update on the Memorial Inspection Programme;
- update on the trial use of shoring to address subsidence at Roselawn Cemetery;
- charity nomination for the distribution of money received from the recycling of metals; and
- update on the rising cost of funerals, to include a benchmarking exercise in regard to the provision of municipal funerals.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 6th April 2017.

#### Age Friendly Update

The Committee considered the following report:

#### "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To update Members on proposals to evaluate the Agefriendly Belfast Plan 2014-2017 and to produce an improvement plan for the period 2018-2021.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note and agree;
  - Proposals to evaluate the Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2014-2017 and produce an improvement plan for the period 2018 -2021.
- 3.0 <u>Main report</u>

#### <u>Key Issues</u>

- 3.1 In March 2012 the Lord Mayor signed a declaration formally committing Belfast to become a World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly City. This effectively committed the City to a continuous improvement cycle, involving older people, of planning, implementation and evaluation to better meet the needs of an ageing population. A three year action plan and progress report must be submitted to WHO for review at the start and end of the process respectively.
- 3.2 On 1st June 2012 it was agreed that the Belfast Strategic Partnership should provide the Governing Structure for the Age-friendly approach and support the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership in a collaborative approach to deliver Age-friendly Belfast.

- 3.3 Since then the Council has played a leading role within the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) and specifically its Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) to honour that commitment. In March 2014 the Age-friendly Belfast plan 2014-2017 was launched and subsequently implemented with the vision Belfast will be a city where older people live life to the full.
- 3.4 The Council's All Party Reference Group on Older People, currently chaired by Councillor Sonia Copeland, directs and oversees this work programme on behalf of the council.
- 3.5 As the Action Plan has reached the end of its implementation period, HASP must now complete an evaluation and summit a progress report to WHO together with a new three year action plan.

<u>Process and timeline for evaluation of progress and</u> development of new 3 year Age-friendly Belfast plan

- 3.6 March to June 2017
  - 1. Review progress of action plan, indicator data and official statistics.
  - 2. Carry out a survey of a wide range of older people to seek their views on the city and identify priorities for action. The survey will be carried out online using Citizen Space and face to face using trained facilitators. Difficult to reach older people will be specifically targeted including carers, disabled, and those from the LGBT and BME communities.
- 3.7 June 2017

Use the information collected to update the age friendly baseline and hold a workshop with service providers, older people and other partners to identify and discuss priorities and actions required over the period of the next three year plan.

This will also allow a one year interim plan to be agreed to maintain progress.

3.8 July - October 2017

The Draft Age-friendly Belfast plan 2018-2021 will be developed alongside additional consultation and commitments from Stakeholders. The Draft Action Plan will be presented to the All Party Reference Group on Older People and Committee for consideration and comment. It will also be presented at the Age Friendly Belfast conference in October and will go out for a 12 week public consultation.

3.9 January 2018

Following public consultation a final draft of The Age-friendly Belfast 2018-2021 will be presented to BSP for approval before being submitted to the World Health Organisation together with the updated Age-friendly Belfast baseline and the evaluation report on the 2014- 2017 Year Plan. The evaluation report and final Action Plan will be reported to Committee at this time.

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

3.10 All work will be carried out within existing budgets.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.11 None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

#### Youth Forum Update

The Committee considered the following report:

- "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the main activities of Council's Youth Forum (YF) and, in particular, present the YF report into young people's views on poverty in Belfast.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 Committee is asked to:
  - Note the ongoing work programme for the BCC Youth Forum
  - Consider and endorse the Youth Forum 'It's not a choice: Poverty in Belfast' report including key findings and recommendations and
  - Support the planned launch and related publicly on 10th May 2017.

#### 3.0 <u>Main Report</u>

#### Youth Forum Recruitment

3.1 Young people on the BCC Youth Forum (YF) serve a 2 year term. In June the 2016-18 recruitment process was completed with over 100 young people applying and taking part in taster sessions and interviews in order to be selected as YF members. A total of 40 young people were selected to join the YF (4 young people per DEA). A successful celebration event with the Lord Mayor to mark the end of the previous term for the 2014-16 members and to welcome the new members and their families took place in Sept 2016.

#### Youth Forum Induction

- 3.2 Since September our new young people have been settling in and learning about their new role. During their induction from Sept-Dec 2016, they explored the following areas with BCC staff:
  - Team building and getting to know each other;
  - Meeting with young people from across the city to hear their issues and what they would like the YF to work on and bring forward to Council;
  - Vision for next 2 years for the YF;
  - 'Rights in Action': Using Human Rights to create change where you live;
  - The powers of local and regional government;
  - Community Planning & the Belfast Agenda;
  - Council Structures and decision making;
  - How to engage effectively with Councillors and decision makers.
- 3.3 Young people also held their first full forum meeting in the Council Chamber and met with the Lord Mayor as part of their induction.

'What you say matters' Young People's Conference

- 3.4 In 2015 our Youth Forum helped Children's Law Centre to gather the views of 900 young people from NI on the changes needed to improve their lives. These views were turned into a report called 'Our Lives in Our Words,' which was presented to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN) in Geneva. In June 2016, based on the findings in the young people's report, the UN Committee made recommendation to the NI Executive. Their recommendations reflected the young people's report which highlighted a need for:
  - Better mental health provision for young people;

- An end to discrimination against young people in community life and leisure experiences;
- An improved knowledge and understanding of Rights;
- Greater levels of meaningful participation from young people in decision making both at community and government level.
- 3.5 The YF wanted to bring young people together to discuss what each of the themes above meant to them and to hear from their peers what they would like the YF to bring forward to Council on their behalf and to shape their future campaign activity. To support this objection, they organised and ran a voung people's conference in October 2016 called 'What you say matters.' The conference was organised in partnership with young people from the NI Youth Forum and the Children's Law Centre as the young people believed it would strengthen their voice and reach more young people. The conference, held in City Hall, was attended by over 100 young people. The entire event was youth led, workshops were held on the day around each theme and young people were asked to form questions on each for the panel discussion taking place that afternoon with key decision makers.
- 3.6 The decision makers who came to City Hall to take part were:
  - Barry McElduff, MLA, Chair of the Education Committee
  - ACC Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, PSNI
  - Andrew Dawson, Head of Mental Health & Capacity Unit, Department of Health, NI.
- 3.7 Cllr Matt Garrett, Chair of People and Communities Committee opened the conference and welcomed all the young people to City Hall. The key issues emerging from the day were:
  - Police stop and search powers;
  - Inadequate mental health provision for young people under 18;
  - Votes at 16/ Meaningful participation;
  - Mental health issues caused by exam stress at school;
  - Need for more 'youth-friendly' spaces for young people in their Belfast; and
  - Inadequate sexual Health education.

- 3.8 Some early outcomes from the conference are:
  - i. Health Minister, Michelle O'Neill MLA, invited a delegation of young people from the BCC YF, NIYF and CLC to have a private meeting with her to discuss concerns around young people and mental health provision.
  - ii. Barry McElduff, MLA, has invited a delegation from all 3 Forums to present evidence to the Education Committee in Stormont.
  - iii. All 3 Youth Forums have committed to continue our partnership working, particularly around a young people's mental health campaign.
- 3.9 A full copy of the conference report is available for information.

#### Youth Forum Campaigns

- 3.10 At the end of November 16, the YF members attended a weekend residential in Corrymeela in Ballycastle to plan their work for the next 2 years. Young people voted to work on the following issues: Poverty in Belfast; Votes at 16 and Mental Health. As noted, these issues were selected based on direct engagement with wider groups of young people outside of the Forum. Since the residential, forum members have been meeting regularly to progress the work and have received 4 training sessions from the Participation and Practice of Rights Project (PPR) in advocacy and lobbying. This training included:
  - Researching their 3 issues;
  - Building their campaign case: designing monitoring tools, gathering evidence;
  - Developing a campaign plan: setting timeframes, agreeing campaign protocols;
  - How to lobby effectively;
  - Using human rights indicators and benchmarks: setting targets for government.
- 3.10 The YF's intend to launch their first campaign (Poverty) in May 2017. Their second campaign, Mental Health, will follow in September this year and our young people are running this campaign in partnership with young people from NI Youth Forum (NIYF) and Children's Law Centre (CLC).

#### YF meets Junior Minister

- 3.11 On 10th January 2017, a delegation of young people from our YF, NIYF & CLC met with Junior Minister, Megan Fearon, MLA. This meeting came as a result of the 'What you Say Matters' conference. The meeting was a great success for our young people, who got to ask the Minister questions relating to mental health provision on behalf of the young people who had attended the conference. In particular they asked:
  - i. Why funding for mental health makes only 8% of the overall health budget?
  - ii. How does the Minister plan to ensure young people have a say in creating their mental health services?
  - iii. What are the plans to ensure under 18's have the same access to mental health services as adults?
  - iv. We also highlighted young people's wishes to see more community based mental health provision that is less clinical and includes more peer support.
- 3.12 The Minister was keen to hear young people's views and answered all questions. She also gave a commitment to meet the groups again in 6 months and to update young people on the progress made with the issues highlighted.

#### Belfast Agenda & Local Development Plan Consultations

3.13 Since January 2017 the YF has assisted the Community Planning and LDP teams to create youth friendly versions of both consultation documents. YF members will spend the month of March taking both consultations into their schools for young people to complete and feed into the wider process. The CYP unit staff team have also been conducting consultation exercises with more marginalised groups of young people including young people in the Juvenile Justice Centre and young people in care.

#### Ur City 2

3.14 The UrCity2 programme involves a linked city initiative for children and young people which has been formulated and delivered in conjunction with the fourteen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships in Belfast. Based on programme submissions, relatively modest amounts of funding of up to £5,000 are made available to each of the NRPs to enable them to give impetus to programmes or projects that have been identified within their action plans as priorities but for which funding is not otherwise secured. We have rolled out the 2016/17 funding to all 14 NRP's and a total of £69,886 was awarded. The 2017/18 round of funding will be issued in early July 2017.

YF Pilot Study on Poverty in Belfast: key findings and recommendations.

- 3.15 <u>Background to project</u>: One of the campaign issues of the 2014-16 YF was poverty and the new 2016-18 YF retained this as a thematic priority issue. The last Forum spent a number of months engaging with the charity sector, service providers, researchers and academics from Queens University and Ulster University to understand the issue of poverty and to agree the focus for their project. As a result of these engagements, the YF highlighted that young people's voices were missing in the conversations about poverty in our city and for this reason set about designing and facilitating a youth led piece of research into young people's views on poverty in Belfast. The YF received research training from the National Children's Bureau (NCB) and from this our young people created a research tool.
- 3.16 Throughout May and June 2016 the YF met with youth groups across Belfast and conducted youth-led focus groups asking them about poverty in their city, its impacts and solutions for Government. Seven groups from all four parts of Belfast took part in the research: a total of 68 young people. Once the focus groups were completed, the data was collated and sent to NCB for analysis. A research report was then created and since Sept '16 the new YF has been working on finalising the report and shaping key recommendations for Government based on young people's opinions.
- 3.17 <u>Key Findings:</u> The report is called 'It's not a choice: Young people's views on poverty in Belfast, a pilot study.' The full report is attached, however, the following summarises the key findings:
  - Young people associated poverty with a range of multi-faceted and inter-connecting issues including homelessness, living in overcrowded homes, poor housing conditions, poor physical and mental health, and a lack of basic necessities. They also highlighted unemployment or low paid employment, poor educational achievement, and a lack of choice in some aspects of life.
  - Young people identified low paid/minimum wage employment as one of the causes of poverty in Belfast.
  - Young people also identified inadequate welfare rates and lack of resources as other key causes of poverty in the city.
  - Young people feel that investment in Belfast is too concentrated in the city centre and that their communities have been 'left behind' when it comes to the sharing economic growth in Belfast.
  - Young people said poverty impacts negatively on their health, education and social life.

- Young people said that effective interventions must target whole families and communities, not just individuals.
- Young people said poverty is not a lifestyle choice and that Government needs to do more to raise awareness of poverty in Belfast and challenge the myths and stereotypes that exist around our most vulnerable disadvantaged people and communities.
- 3.18 <u>Young people's recommendations</u>: A key part of the youthled focus groups involved asking young people what solutions they would like to give to Government in the campaign to end poverty. Young people gave many new and creative ideas. Our YF analysed these and have used them to create the following recommendations for Belfast City Council:
  - i. Create a Living Wage recognition scheme: This would recognise/reward employers in the city who pay, as a minimum, the living wage to their staff. It would work similarly to the 'Scores on the Doors' scheme that Council operates. This should be the 'True Living Wage' as set by the Living Wage Foundation.
  - ii. Drive a Living Wage culture: Utilise contracting powers: Council should use its power as a major contractor of services in Belfast to only award outside contracts to employers who pay their staff the Living Wage as a minimum.
  - Endorse equal wages for young people: Council should endorse young people from the age of 16 onwards receiving equal pay for doing equal work to adults.
  - iv. Create a plan to end poverty and share wealth: This plan should tackle the root causes, create solutions and be funded to make it work. It should also make sure that as our economy grows, our most disadvantaged communities get an equal share of the wealth and investment.
  - v. Commit to meaningful participation: Have real conversations with people of all ages living in poorer communities before creating policies and making decisions about their lives. They know what they need, so ask them.

- vi. Create more 'decent' jobs: Young people think decent jobs are ones that pay well, develop their skills and talents and are long term and stable. Young people don't just want these jobs for themselves; they want them for their families and people in their communities too.
- vii. Make sure people facing poverty get these jobs: target training & opportunities: Council should create a work placement programme and career pathways especially for young people at risk of poverty (young carers, young people with disabilities and young people with low educational attainment for example). Work programmes should be built to meet *their needs* and should target them at key transition stages of their lives (like young people leaving school or young people leaving care).
- viii. Make it free: Council owned leisure centres should include 16, 17 & 18 year olds in their junior admission prices and offer free swims and gym memberships to young people on certain days of the week. Council should organise more free social events and spaces for young people in Belfast like music festivals, fun days and hang out spaces in the city centre.
  - ix. Raise Awareness: Council should use its position as a city leader to raise awareness about poverty in Belfast and to challenge the myths and stereotypes about people and communities experiencing poverty and deprivation.

#### Next Steps:

- 3.19 It is significant that many of these recommendations link very closely with the Belfast Agenda and it is encouraging to note that the young people in Belfast share the aspirations of Council to work with others to improve the outcomes and the life chances of young people. The YF members are very socially aware and have made positive suggestions as to how Council and other organisations can work to reduce the levels of poverty within our city.
- 3.20 The Youth Forum hope to launch the report in City Hall on 10th May along with their '*Poverty: It's not a choice*' campaign. Our YF and older people's forum (the G6) have been working together on an inter-generational project to create a video that raises awareness of the issue of poverty in Belfast and challenges the stereotypes surrounding people and communities experiencing poverty. This video will also be launched on 10th May and will be followed up with a social media campaign.
- 3.21 Our young people then hope to present their research findings, recommendations and video to Committee and

hope to work with CIIrs to implement recommendations from the report.

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

3.22 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.23 There are no relevant equality and good relations implications."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

#### **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

#### Alleygating - Notice of Traffic Regulation Order 2017

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
- 1.1 Members will be aware that Council made £700,000 available from the Capital Programme to install alleygates across the city (Phase 4 Alleygates).
- 1.2 Proposed gate locations were discussed and agreed at Area Working Groups and approved by Council on 4 July 2016.
- 1.3 Members will also be aware that the legislative authority for introducing gating Orders transferred to local Councils through the commencement of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 on 4th May 2011.
- 1.4 The 2011 Act inserts new Part 6A (Articles 69A to 69E) into the 1993 Order. These new provisions allow action to be taken quickly, easily and with a degree of flexibility not previously available. District councils are now able to make, vary or revoke gating orders in respect of relevant roads (as defined in Article 69A(5) of the 1993 Order) affected by crime or ASB within their area, permitting a gate to be installed at each end of the road. The orders are an effective way of enabling councils to restrict public access to any relevant road by gating it (at certain times of the day if applicable), without removing its underlying road status.

- 1.5 Councils however still require the approval of the Transport NI ('DRD') to:
  - a) make a gating order; or
  - b) vary a gating order so as to further restrict any public right of way over the road to which the order relates.
- 1.6 The required statutory and community consultation has been undertaken and the purpose of this report is to seek formal approval from Committee to make the Traffic Regulation Orders enabling these gates to be installed.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree;
  - To proceed to enact the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North, South, East and West Belfast) Orders 2016 to commence the installation of alleygates as set out within the attached appendix.
- 3.0 Key Issues
- 3.1 The pre-consultation exercise with affected residents and Statutory bodies / service suppliers has been carried out and the Notice of Intention (formal consultation stage) was advertised on Friday 11th July.
- 3.2 One formal objection to the Traffic Regulation Orders was received in respect of proposed gates at Agincourt Avenue, questioning whether the installation of alleygates would make any difference to crime and anti-social behaviour in the area based on the objectors' previous experience of alleygates in the area.
- 3.3 However, after consideration, Legal Services have recommended that alleygating can proceed at this location, as Council can be satisfied the requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments Act (2011) have been met in establishing that this area is affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.4 Manufacture of the gates included in this Traffic Regulation Order will take place in April/May 2017 with installation commencing in summer 2017.
- 3.5 Ongoing work is taking place to resolve issues around the remaining proposed gate locations approved by Council in 2016.
- 3.6 Additionally, some savings have been identified in some areas and Officers are working with the relevant Area Working Groups to agree further proposed gate locations.

- 3.7 A further Traffic Regulation Order is planned for summer 2017 to include those gate locations where issues had been identified and new gate locations for those areas with underspend.
- 3.8 Members should be aware that the level of response to the pre-consultation exercise was generally at a low level and also that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and antisocial behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.
- 3.9 Legal Services have therefore recommended further engagement (post Phase 4) with Members on the process by which areas/locations are selected for alleygating.

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

3.10 There are no specific financial implications associated with the enactment of this Traffic Regulation Order.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.11 No Equality or Good Relations implications have been identified, however, this is being monitored on an ongoing basis."

#### Appendix

#### Alleygating Phase 4: 2017

#### Proposed Gating Orders:

- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North Belfast) Order 2017
- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order 2017
- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (East Belfast) Order 2017
- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (West Belfast) Order 2017

#### <u>North</u>

- To the rear of 61-113 Alexandra Park Avenue
- To the side of 17 Ballycastle Court and rear of 199-207 Oldpark Road
- To the side of 14 Ballycastle Court and rear of 179-193 Oldpark Road

and 4-6 Ballymena Court

- To the side of 19 and 21 and rear of 9-19 Ballynure Street
- To the rear of 5-19 Ballymoney Street, 12-22 Rosapenna Street and 8-11 Rosapenna Court and to the side of 8 Rosapenna Court and 12 Rosapenna Street
- To the rear of 4-7 Bann Court and 1-6 Liffey Court
- To the rear of 7-11 Liffey Court and 18-32 Summer Street
- To the rear of 34-60 Castleton Gardens and 1-19 Jubliee Avenue and to the side of 36 Castleton Gardens
- To the rear of 2-62 Deacon Street, 27-41 Crosscollyer Street, 6-19 Seaview Close and 7-10 Parkmount Close and to the side of 226B North Queen Street, 62 and 64 Deacon Street
- To the rear of 4-42 Parkmount Street and 377 North Queen Street and to the side of 4 Parkmount Street
- To the rear of 23-41 Glenside Parade
- To the rear of 5-8 Ligoniel Place
- To the rear of 52-106 Stratheden Street, 1-5 Halliday's Road, 2 Edlingham Street and 183-229 New Lodge Road and to the side of 217 and 221 New Lodge Road and 2 Edlingham Street
- To the rear of 2-80 Wheatfield Crescent, 743-759 Crumlin Road and to the side of 2, 38 and 44 Wheatfield Crescent
- To the rear of 55-93 Wheatfield Crescent, 1-45 Ballysillan Road and 761-771 Crumlin Road and to the side of 93 and 55 Wheatfield Crescent
- To the rear of 23-45 Wyndham Street and 190-210 Cliftonville Road
- To the rear of 90-126 York Park and 2-38 York Crescent
- To the rear of 1-37 York Crescent and 2-36 York Parade
- To the rear of 1-33 York Parade and 2-32 York Drive

#### <u>South</u>

- To the rear of 2-24 Belgravia Avenue and 129-131 Lisburn Road and to the side of 2 and 24 Belgravia Avenue
- To the rear of 1-37 Cairo Street, 2-42 Damascus Street, 45-53 Agincourt Avenue and 37-47 Rugby Avenue and to the side of 1 and 37 Cairo Street and 2 Damascus Street
- To the rear of 1-65 Carmel Street, 59-63 College Park Avenue, 93-129 Agincourt Avenue, 66-84 Rugby Road and 1-17 Rugby Parade and to the side of 1 and 65 Carmel Street, 97, 99 and 129 Agincourt Avenue and 1 Rugby Parade
- To the rear of 1-43 Damascus Street, 25A-35 Rugby Avenue, 2-48 Jerusalem Street and 55-63 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 1 and 43 Damascus Street and 2 Jerusalem Street
- To the rear of 1-51 Jerusalem Street, 2-56 Palestine Street, 13-23 Rugby Avenue and 65-73 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 Palestine Street and 1 and 51 Jerusalem Street

- To the rear of 1-57 Palestine Street, 2-64 Carmel Street, 1-11 Rugby Avenue and 75-83 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 Carmel Street and 1 and 57 Palestine Street
- To the rear of 1-25 Penrose Street, 2-36 Cairo Street, 49-61 Rugby Avenue and 41 and 43 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 and 36 Cairo Street and 1 Penrose Street
- To the rear of 2-28 Agincourt Street, 2-30 Penrose Street, 63-73 Rugby Avenue and 29-37 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 Penrose Street and 28 Agincourt Street
- To the rear of 1-27 Agincourt Street, 75-87 Rugby Avenue and 1-27 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 27 Agincourt Street
- To the rear of 238-306 Donegall Avenue
- To the rear of 1-47 Ebor Drive, 2-50 Ebor Parade and 226-236 Tate's Avenue and to the side of 1 Ebor Drive and 2 Ebor Parade
- To the rear of 2-46 Ebor Drive, 109-161 Ebor Street and 218-224 Tate's Avenue and to the side of 2 Ebor Drive and 111 Ebor Street
- To the rear of 110-150 Ebor Street, 1-41 Olympia Street and to the side of 110 Ebor Street and 1 Olympia Street
- To the rear of 2-40 Olympia Street, 1-39 Runnymede Drive, 53-69 Olympia Drive and 190-204 Tate's Avenue and to the side of 2 and 40 Olympia Street and 1 and 39 Runnymede Drive
- To the rear of 80-106 Olympia Drive
- To the rear of 2-16 Wellesley Avenue, 7-17 Malone Road and 1-11 Wellington Park and the side of 4, 6 and 16 Wellesley Avenue
- To the rear of 120-126 Lisburn Road, 106-110 Wellesley Avenue and 83-85 Wellington Park and to the side of 110 Wellesley Avenue
- To the rear of 2-24 Landseer Street and to the side of 2A, 2 and 24 Landseer Street
- To the rear of 1-9 Colenso Parade
- To the rear of 1-43 Landseer Street, 11-21 Colenso Parade, 12-22 Stranmillis Road and 2-46 Elaine Street and to the side of 1 and 43 Landseer Street and 2 and 46 Elaine Street
- To the rear of 3-49 Elaine Street, 23-35 Colenso Parade, 24-34 Stranmillis Road and 8-58 Pretoria Street and to the side of 3 and 49 Elaine Street and 8 Pretoria Street
- To the rear of 3-55 Pretoria Street, 37-45 Colenso Parade, 2-58 Stranmillis Gardens and Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church and 38-44 Stranmillis Road and to the side of 2 Stranmillis Gardens, 45 Colenso Parade and 55 Pretoria Street
- To the rear of 11-39 Powerscourt Place and to the side of 12 and 15 Essex Grove
- To the rear of 1-9 Powerscourt Place and 2-10 Essex Grove

#### <u>East</u>

- To the rear of 16-60 Castlereagh Street, 143-155 Albertbridge Road, 1-31 Stormount Street and 4-8 Frank Street and to the side of 141 and 143 Albertbridge Road
- To the rear of 2-8 Stormount Street, 1-5 Stormount Crescent and 157-177 Albertbridge Road and to the side of 2 Stormount Street and 5 Stormount Crescent
- To the rear of 2-66 Bendigo Street, 1-67 Dunvegan Street and 103-113 Ravenhill Road and to the side of 2 Bendigo Street
- To the rear of 2-64 Dunvegan Street, 1-61 Carrington Street and 117-131 Ravenhill Road and to the side of 2 Dunvegan Street
- To the rear of 77-85 St Kilda Street
- To the rear of 1-15 Rathmore Street and 40-74 My Lady's Road and to the side of 1 Mount Street South and 2 Lawnmount Street
- To the rear of 76-110 My Lady's Road and 2-14 Eversleigh Street and to the side of 2B Cherryville Street
- To the rear of 2-8 Montrose Street South and 19-33 Vicarage Street and to the side of 2 Montrose Street South
- To the rear of 1-17 Kerrsland Drive and to the side of 8 Kerrsland Mews
- To the rear of 1-39 Kerrsland Crescent and to the side of 1 Kerrsland Mews and 1 and 39 Kerrsland Crescent
- To the rear of 115-157 Belmont Road, 2-26 Belmont Avenue West, 1-4 Belmont Close and 1A-5 Belmont Avenue and to the side of 1A and 1 Belmont Avenue and 14 and 16 Belmont Avenue West
- To the rear of 1A-33 Belmont Avenue West, 83-113 Belmont Road and 9-75 Belmont Avenue and to the side of 1A and 1 Belmont Avenue West and 39 and 41 Belmont Avenue
- To the rear of 17-47 Frome Street and 30-74 Dee Street
- To the rear of 26-34 Brandon Parade and to the side of 21 Brandon Terrace
- To the rear of 36-42 Brandon Parade and to the side of 4 Brandon Terrace
- To the rear of 56-64 Ravensdale Street and 135-141 Beersbridge Road and to the side of 58, 60, 62 and 64 Ravensdale Street
- To the rear of 53 and 55 Lord Street, 13-23 Kingswood Street and 37 and 39 Trillick Street and to the side of 53 Lord Street and 37 Trillick Street
- To the rear of 57-123 Lord Street, 1-35 Trillick Street and to the side of 35 Trillick Street and 123 Lord Street
- To the rear of 2-16 Kingswood Street and 27-37 Epworth Street
- To the rear of 145-185 Avoniel Road, 18-28 and 17-29 Templemore Place and to the side of 29 and 28 Templemore Place

- To the rear of 27-143 Avoniel Road, 12-64 Templemore Street and 22-30 Templemore Close and to the side of 27 Avoniel Road, 30, 32, 44, 48 and 64 Templemore Road
- To the rear of 1-51 Hyndford Street, 2-52 Abetta Parade and 59-67 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 51 Hyndford Street and 52 Abetta Parade
- To the rear of 2-76 Hyndford Street and 1-67 Greenville Road
- To the rear of 10-20 Greenville Road and 11 Clara Crescent Lower and to the side of 11 Clara Crescent Lower
- To the rear of 1-5 Clara Crescent Lower, 1-5 Clara Avenue and to the side of 1 Clara Crescent Lower and 1 Clara Avenue
- To the rear of 26-42 Greenville Road and to the side of 8 Clara Crescent Lower and 2 Clara Crescent Upper
- To the rear of 46-50 Greenville Road, 1-19 Clara Crescent Upper, 25 and 27 Clara Avenue and 31-55 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 50 Greenville Road
- To the rear of 4-44 Clara Avenue, 1-41 Hollycroft Avenue, 19-29 Woodcot Avenue and 361 Beersbridge Road and to the side of 6, 8 and 44 Clara Avenue and 1 and 41 Hollycroft Avenue
- To the rear of 4-40 Hollycroft Avenue, 1-29 Melrose Avenue, 371 Beersbridge Road and 7-17 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 4, 12 and 40 Hollycroft Avenue and 1 and 29 Melrose Avenue
- To the rear of 4-36 Melrose Avenue, 1-15 Bloomfield Road, 373-381 Beersbridge Road and 1 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 4 Melrose Avenue

#### <u>West</u>

- To the rear of 1-17 Springhill Crescent
- To the rear of 54-62 Horn Drive and 28-38 Horn Walk
- To the rear of 20-30 Black's Road and 3-8 Ringford Park
- To the rear of 153-167 Ballygomartin Road and 1 Westway Drive and to the side of 3 Westway Drive
- To the rear of 89-123 Broom Park and 2-28 Mulberry Park
- To the rear of 10-14 Glasvey Drive and 1-9 Glasvey Park

A Member highlighted the current lengthy decision making process in respect of the erection of new alleygates and he requested that the Council liaise with other relevant external agencies to examine whether the current process could be expedited.

A further Member raised a query regarding additional alleygates at Jamaica Road and the Assistant Director undertook to update the Member directly in respect of this matter.

The Committee agreed:

- to proceed to enact the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North, South, East and West Belfast) Orders 2016 to commence the installation of Alleygates in those parts of the City; and
- that officers would liaise with Legal Services and other relevant external agencies to examine whether the current decision making process for the erection of alleygates could be expedited for any future capital schemes.

## Consultation Re: design of new play facility at Navarra Place

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to the proposed dates for two consultation events that had been organised in conjunction with the Department of Justice (DoJ) to provide an opportunity for local residents to have input in the design of the new play facility for Navarra Place.

He detailed that the consultation would focus on the following:

- lay-out of the park;
- equipment and facilities for the park, including a potential MUGA; and
- the potential 'designing-out' of the interface fence.

The Committee was advised that the consultation would also be available on the Council's consultation portal for feedback between the dates of 28th March and 16th April. Residents and stakeholders would be identified and invited to attend with the assistance of the IFI Peacewalls Programme funder Greater Whitewell Community Surgery Group.

The Members noted the proposed dates for the consultation events regarding the redevelopment of the playground at Navarra Place/White City, as follows:

- Wednesday 5th April in Hazelwood Primary School 3.00 -7.00 p.m.; and
- Thursday 6th April in White City Community Centre 4.00 8.00 p.m.

#### Leasing of Belvoir Bowing Green to Balmoral Bowling Club

The Committee was reminded that Belvoir Bowling Club had transferred to the Council from the former Castlereagh Borough Council (CBC) on the 1st April, 2015, under Local Government Reform.

The Assistant Director reported that Balmoral Bowling Club had been established in 1943 and had played at Belvoir Bowling Green since 1982. The Club had entered into a 99 year lease with CBC from 1st November, 1994 in respect of the land on which the pavilion was situated, subject to the payment of five pence per annum, if demanded. Balmoral Bowling Club had subsequently constructed the bowling pavilion on this land.

The Committee was advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed, at its meeting held on 23rd October, 2016, that the Council should enter

into a 25 year lease agreement with Balmoral Bowling Club in respect of the bowling green.

The Committee noted that, under the terms of the lease agreement, Balmoral Bowling Club was responsible for the repair, maintenance and upkeep of the bowling green. The Assistant Director advised that a recent inspection of the bowling green had been carried out by a turf consultant which had recommended that improvements should be made to the surface of the bowling green. Whilst these works would not constitute 'major surgery' they would require a programme of good husbandry and grounds maintenance.

The Committee:

- approved a separate Funding Agreement between the Council and Balmoral Bowling Club; and
- noted that the Funding Agreement would provide Balmoral Bowling Club with a maximum of £15,000 over the first 3 years of the 25 year lease, to allow Balmoral Bowling Club, who would be responsible for the maintenance of the bowling green, to finance improvements over the 3 year period.

#### **Springfield Star - Lease Agreement**

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to fund the development of a mini soccer pitch with associated fencing and lighting at Springmartin under the first round of the Local Investment Programme. She reported that, at the time, Springfield Star had agreed to manage and maintain the asset at no cost to the Council and had agreed to a 3 year lease period which had lapsed in September 2016.

The Committee was advised that officers had met with a representative of the Trustees, who had indicated a willingness and desire to continue with a lease agreement for a further period of 3 years, with an option to renew the lease for a further 3 years.

The Committee agreed to extend the current lease agreement with the Trustees of Springfield Star for a period of 3 years, with an option to renew for a further 3 years, from the end date of the previous agreement, subject to the approval of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

#### Acquisition of Land adjoining Twinbrook Wildlife Park

The Assistant Director advised that Twinbrook Wildlife Park comprised of a 2.5 acre plot of open space / grassland which had transferred under Local Government Reform from Lisburn City Council on 1st April, 2015. She detailed that the land lay between the Summerhill Road and Creighton Road adjoining the Twinbrook housing estate. Prior to the transfer it had been badly neglected, with little or no ground works, and there had been extensive evidence of fly tipping. She reported that, following the transfer, Belfast City Council had completed Phase 1 of a refurbishment project which had provided surfaced walkways, along with landscaping and extensive planting at an estimated cost of £100,000.

The officer reported that two adjoining plots of unused and overgrown grassland fronting Summerhill Road had been declared surplus to the requirements of the

#### People and Communities Committee Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Transport NI. In 2016, the Council had expressed an interest in acquiring these plots of 0.2 acres and 0.19 acres respectively. Land and Property Services, acting on behalf of the landowners, had offered the land to the Council, subject to considerations of £7,000 and £6,800, which was considered to be fair and reasonable.

The Committee was asked to note that Phase 2 of the Twinbrook Wildlife Park refurbishment project was proposing that these two plots of land would be incorporated to provide an integrated Wildlife Park, with improved access from Summerhill Road and Creighton Road.

The Committee:

- agreed to acquire the freehold interest in two plots of land that adjoined the Council owned Twinbrook Wildlife Park; and
- noted that a report would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval in accordance with standing orders.

#### Marrowbone Millennium Park Playground Location

The Committee was reminded of proposals, as part of the Urban Villages Programme, to refurbish Marrowbone Millennium Park.

The Assistant Director advised that the park currently consisted of an artificial pitch, a temporary changing pavilion, a playground and a network of paths located within a landscaped area. She highlighted that the playground had been subject to vandalism and anti-social behaviour over the years and that it was currently used as a gathering point, often attracting incidents of anti-social behaviour. She reported that, during discussions with locally Elected Members and the PSNI, consideration had been given to the potential relocation of this playground to a more suitable location which would provide more natural surveillance and attract greater community ownership.

The Assistant Director sought approval for officers to explore potential locations in the area. She advised that any such relocation would be dependent upon:

- finding and securing a suitable location;
- securing community support and agreement;
- securing the necessary statutory approvals; and
- affordability.

The Committee authorised officers to explore options regarding the most suitable location for a playground to serve the community around Marrowbone Millennium Park.

#### **Operational Issues**

#### Public Toilets Update

(Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management, attended in connection with this item).

The Committee considered the following report:

#### "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the issues surrounding public toilets and seek strategic direction in relation to the Hope Street facility.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
  - 1. Note the contents of the report, and
  - 2. Approve that Waste Management informs the contractor of its intention to terminate the Hope Street, Automatic Public Convenience (APC) contract in line with the contract terms and conditions (i.e. 6 months before contract end date of July 2018).

#### 3.0 <u>Main report</u>

3.1 Members will be aware that Waste Management is responsible for the management of the 14 public toilets within Belfast. The public toilet estate is comprised of 7 traditional toilets, 6 Automatic Public Toilets (APCs) which require payment of a twenty pence fee to access (20p) and 1 retractable urinal at Shaftesbury Square, which supports the night time economy. Details of these facilities are contained in the recently updated promotional leaflet which is distributed by a network of Council and partner organisations (e.g. Belfast Visitor & Welcome Centre, Libraries NI - Public Toilets in Belfast (Locations & Opening Times)).

#### Loo of the Year Awards, 2016

3.2 Members may recall that the Council is assessed each year by the British Toilet Association (BTA) regarding the standard of its public toilets. The BTA is the main organisation promoting and improving standards in 'away from home' public toilets in the UK. Its activities include raising awareness of public toilets and recognising good practice through the national 'Loo of the Year Awards' which are sponsored by private companies and local tourist boards.

- 3.3 At the awards ceremony in December 2016, the Council gained the following recognition for its public toilet provision:
  - Overall National Award winner for Public Toilets
  - Attained 'Champions League' Standard of Excellence
  - Winetavern Street toilets National award winner for non-attended toilets
  - Antrim Road APC National Award winner for Automatic Public Toilets
  - Seventh position (up one position on previous year) in the Local Authority Public Toilets '*Premier League*'
- 3.4 As well as the above accolades, the Council entered 12 public toilets in the various award categories and all 12 scored platinum, the highest level possible. In addition, the public toilets in the City Hall picked up an award for the best '*Town Hall*' toilets. Further details on the Loo of the Year awards are available online at <u>http://www.loo.co.uk/250/2016-National-Award-Winners</u>

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.5 Over recent years the main unwanted activity experienced at the Council's public toilets, and in particular APCs, has been the increase in the prevalence of drug related material discarded or deposited in the units. This is in line with the increasing trend of drug use in society as frequently reported in the media. In November 2016, the BBC reported that the Public Health Agency '*Needle Exchange Programme*' witnessed an increase in visits in four years from 7,500 to just under 15,000. At the time of this news item, there were 18 needle-exchange facilities across NI and 3 additional facilities are due to be provided to support this scheme in 2017.
- 3.6 Following this increase in sharps finds (syringes), the Council has liaised with their contracted service providers and other public bodies on an on-going basis to take measures to counteract this behaviour. Each of the Council's APCs (except Hope Street) are fitted with sharps boxes to allow a safe disposal route for these items. This initiative was taken by the Service to safeguard the public, as well as Council and contractor staff. Further measures have been installed in these units to deter the use of illegal drugs. Most drug advisory charities give guidance to users on the disposal unit at the public toilets and this appears to be working well.

3.7 Anecdotal reports from the contractor (Healthmatic) who maintains these units and removes the drug related materials, suggests a decrease in the inappropriate disposal of sharps in the APCs. The sharps boxes are being installed in the Council's standard (non-fee paying) public toilets, with Winetavern Street already completed and work is ongoing to install these throughout 2017/18 in the remaining assets, where feasible.

#### **Changing Places Facilities**

- 3.8 On 6 Feb 2013, the Health & Environmental Services Committee meeting approved a PC Provision Strategy for Belfast. One of the issues highlighted within this report was the absence of a Changing Places facility in the city.
- 3.9 Thousands of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities cannot use standard accessible toilets. Changing Places facilities include special equipment and support for carers by providing an 'away from home' toilet for this audience and there is a Changing Places Initiative to promote installation of these facilities in suitable venues. Provision of such facilities improves social inclusion and demonstrates a city committed to the benefit of all. It also assists care providers in terms of planning their day out with individuals who would benefit from such facilities.
- 3.10 When developing the Girdwood Community hub, the Council's project team had the foresight to incorporate a Changing Places toilet in its design making this the first Council site to include such a facility; another unit was installed at the newly refurbished Olympia Leisure Centre. This brings the total number of Changing Places toilets in NI to 15. Further Changing Places toilets have been included in the design stage of other Council Leisure Transformation schemes, and efforts continue to locate a facility in the city centre.

#### **Promotion**

- 3.11 To promote general awareness of the Council's public toilets, a number of actions have recently been undertaken. The promotional literature outlining the locations, opening hours and on-site facilities has been revised and is distributed by a network of Council and partner organisations (e.g. Belfast Visitor & Welcome Centre, Libraries NI.
- 3.12 The toilet information on the Council's web site has been reviewed and updated, along with a new, more informative and user-friendly map which no longer requires a postcode to access relevant information. This amendment is aimed specifically at improving the information for tourists.

#### People and Communities Committee Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

- 3.13 On the streets, the latest signboard designs incorporate information on areas of interest, local landmarks etc and include public toilet details. This signposting of practical information is targeted particularly at out-of-town visitors.
- 3.14 The British Toilet Association (BTA) has approached the Council regarding the potential for an interactive map which would provide details of all toilets available for public use within the city not just those operated by the Council. For example, this could include those facilities present in fast-food premises, hospitality outlets, entertainment venues, retail premises. Again, it is envisaged that this would be particularly useful for tourists.

#### Hope Street

- 3.15 The APC located at Hope Street is provided under contract by JC Decaux. The unit is an older-model APC (1988) and presents a number of challenges for the Council. The facility was installed before the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act and, as such, does not meet the standards required and included within later versions of APCs.
- 3.16 In January 2017, UTV ran a news item highlighting a find of drug paraphernalia at the Hope Street APC. Unlike all of the other APCs in the Council's toilet portfolio, due to its older design this unit is unable to accommodate a sharps box. Additionally, the automatic cleaning regime is less rigorous than the newer APC models.
- 3.17 Given the above issues, and that an alternative public toilet is located on the Dublin Road, less than 325 meters away and within line of sight, the Service recommends that the Hope Street APC should be removed. In order to do this, the Council must give the contractor 6 months' notice before the end of the contract, in July 2018.

#### Financial & Resource Implications

3.18 Should the Hope Street Unit be removed it would result in avoided costs of around £20,000 per annum. It is suggested that this sum should be re-invested in the public toilet network and in particular to offset any leasing and maintenance costs associated with a new Changing Places facility in the city centre.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

## 3.19 There are no relevant Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report."

A Member welcomed the inclusion within the report of information in respect of Changing Places Facilities and requested that a more detailed report be submitted to a future meeting.

A further Member referred to the update in respect of the erection of sharps boxes which allowed for the safe disposal of sharps, for example, needles and he sought additional information on the anecdotal reports that suggested a decrease in the inappropriate disposal of these sharps in the Automatic Public Toilets.

The Committee:

- commended the work of the Public Convenience Operatives;
- granted approval for Waste Management to inform the contractor of its intention to terminate the Hope Street, Automatic Public Convenience (APC) contract in line with the contract terms and conditions (that is, 6 months before contract end date of July 2018); and
- agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting that would provide more detail in respect of:
  - Changing Places Facilities throughout the City; and
  - the installation of sharp boxes and the anecdotal information that suggested a decrease in the inappropriate disposal of sharps.

#### <u>Community and Play Centre –</u> Nominations to Management Committees

The Community Development Manager advised that a number of changes to the approved Member representation on the Community and Play Centre Committees had recently been received and she drew the Members' attention to the revised list.

The Committee approved the revised list of appointees to the Community and Play Centre Committees, subject to the list being updated to reflect the following changes in membership:

- the replacement of the former Councillor McNamee with Councillor O'Neill on Knocknagoney Community Centre; and
- the replacement of the former Councillor Bradshaw with Councillor Nicholl on the Olympia Community Centre.

#### Girdwood Update

(Mrs. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To provide an outline of progress to committee on the Girdwood Community Hub.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
  - Note progress to date
  - Consider the request for political representative on the Girdwood Community Forum.

#### 3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The Girdwood site in north Belfast has been transformed into a state of the art shared space community hub which offers first-class leisure, community and education facilities. The project, which has a total value of £20 million with significant income via the EU's PEACE III Programme, has been developed in partnership with the Girdwood Hub Forum.
- 3.2 The Community Hub and Pitch is the first step in the wider regeneration of Girdwood Park, a 14 acre site located between Crumlin Road and Cliftonpark Avenue. The hub is part of Council's <u>Investment Programme</u> and also ties in with plans to <u>transform our leisure services</u> over the next decade.

**Community Participation:** 

- 3.3 The Girdwood Community Forum was set up by Belfast City Council in 2011 to work in partnership with Council in delivering the Girdwood Community Hub project as a centre for peace and reconciliation and a shared site. The Forum is a cross community body chaired by council and made up of over 20 groups from the surrounding area, representatives from the Department for Communities, Belfast MET, Newington Housing Association, PSNI and other key stakeholders. There has been consistent and committed representation from those community groups who work around the Girdwood site.
- 3.4 Last year, Forum members agreed that given the change in stage of some of the key elements of the project, that is to post construction, it would be timely to review the terms of

reference and the membership to ensure clarity of roles and responsibility and effective engagement. The review was supported with external facilitation, initially from Stratagem and then by Stellar Leadership. At each stage of the process the recommendations were amended to reflect stakeholder comment. A final draft proposal, which summarised the conversation to date and outlined proposals to refresh the community engagement arrangements, was formally considered by the Forum at their meeting in Feb 2017.

- 3.5 The paper proposes two focused structures one with a Girdwood Park planning remit and the other with a Girdwood Hub & Pitches delivery remit. This proposal reflects the need to retain the identified best practice of the Forum while also addressing the need for an operational group to address the 'day to day' aspects of the Facility which is managed by GLL.
- 3.6 While some community members raised concerns around the potential to *dilute* the role of the Forum, the formal community feedback supported a need for an operational group to co-ordinate the work of the various operational partners within the Girdwood Community Hub. They indicated that any such group would report back to the Girdwood Community Forum to record progress and note issues. The Forum noted the concerns and agreed to adopt the recommendations on an interim basis subject to ongoing review.
- 3.7 The discussion noted the overriding desire to retain the open membership and therefore accessibility of the Girdwood Community Forum (GCF) which has been cited by all as an example of best practice for community engagement. There is agreement, however, that membership of the new Girdwood Operational Group (GOG) would be limited to those with a service delivery remit and will be chaired by GLL. The Forum agreed that others can and will be invited to join and attend either the Forum or the Operational Group as issues that matter to them arise.
- 3.8 The review also highlighted the need for Forum members to be supported to keep their organisations and wider networks informed. Priority will be given to developing a communications plan and to identify support channels to ensure provision is made to engage, involve, consult and inform the wider community of issues and proposals as they emerge. A 'lessons learnt' and outcome based planning workshop is being planned for April 2017.

- 3.9 Community representatives also suggest the model should be built upon and would be strengthened by the involvement of Belfast City Councillors on the Forum. Officers agreed to put this to committee for consideration in the context of Council protocols and precedent in this regard. Since April 2016, community representatives from the Forum have been invited to meet with the North Area Working Group on a bimonthly basis to monitor progress. The Girdwood Community Forum representatives nominated to attend the meetings are (please note that whilst the representatives are there on behalf of the Girdwood Community Forum, all have their own individual organisations):
  - Manus Maguire (Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum)
  - Janice Beggs (Lower Oldpark Community Association)
  - Ian McLaughlin (Lower Shankill Community Outreach Project)
  - Paul O'Neill (Ashton Community Trust)
  - Rosemary McGreevy (Thorndale Duncairn Kinnard Residents Association)

Community Programming:

- 3.10 The Girdwood Community Hub has now been open for just over one year. In that time it has shown itself to be a fantastic facility and asset that is used in increasing numbers by local residents and young people from the surrounding communities – Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark, New Lodge, Cliftonville, Girdwood, and Thorndale, Duncairn, Kinnard and across North Belfast and beyond. For example, in October 2016 a Halloween event drew more than 1,200 local people with representative attendance across community background and age profiles.
- 3.11 The priority objective is to ensure the Hub is accepted as a safe and welcoming venue for everyone and that it is used by nearby community groups, as well as other organisations in north Belfast, including statutory bodies and charities.
- 3.12 The Hub is managed by GLL. The on-site facilities include:
  - state of the art gym equipment
  - spa
  - sports hall and changing facilities for a wide range of group exercises, including a range of cardio, strength, conditioning and relaxation classes

- multi-purpose rooms for a variety of events and activities
- community space for after-schools, crafts and other activities
- birthday party room hire
- classrooms for courses with Belfast Metropolitan College
- a dedicated youth space
- an outdoor piazza with seating, as well as a range of other facilities

#### Leisure and Sports Development

3.13 GLL have an extensive programme with a broad activity offer, for example, Chronic Condition Management Programme, Women's programme in partnership with WISPA, Cardiac rehab, Stroke association speech and language therapy, pulmonary rehab programme and Jog Belfast. They are also working with Volunteer Now to specifically look at extending seniors involvement including a Men's Shed project, coffee mornings, etc. They are working in partnership with MacMillan Cancer and a project support officer has now started with GLL and is based in Girdwood.

#### Belfast Metropolitan College

- 3.14 Belfast Met are running a range of education programmes from their dedicated facility on site. These include Essential skills - literacy, numeracy and ICT, Family learning, Childcare, Beginners and Improvers computer courses and Tour Guides. In partnership with the Prince's Trust, they are delivering a 12 week Team programme for young people between the ages of 16 and 24. The college are working with the Forum to encourage participation in their current programme and to inform and extend their future programme offer.
- 3.15 Officers from the LEMIS+ Project recently presented to the Forum in order to agree how to promote better linkages between the opportunities / availability of training and mentor offers via LEMIS and the users at Girdwood.

#### **Dedicated Youth Space**

3.16 The Forum have endorsed the need for a community provider of the Youth Space and welcomed this as a capacity building pathway towards the aspiration for future community management of the Hub. The work was initially developed by North Talks Too (NTT) with input from the Youth Space Working Group (YSWG) of the wider GCF. BCC have since provided technical assistance from the *Interaction Institute for Social Change* to support NTT to develop a detailed business proposal. Any proposal needs

#### People and Communities Committee Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

to demonstrate ongoing engagement with and incorporation of the views of the broader community before being tabled with the GCF for formal endorsement. Whilst the original outline proposal came from NTT, community representatives propose that the governance structures of Girdwood Community Trust (GCT) would be better placed to take the proposal forward. Founding members of GCT (and NTT) are Lower Oldpark Community Association, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum and Lower Shankill Community Association.

- 3.17 Once a final proposal is submitted, it will be assessed by Council officers and presented to Council for any resource decision. A joint funding application will be made to the Executive Office.
- 3.18 Prior to a community management contract being in place, officers from Community Services are supporting the YSWG in the development and delivery of the activity programme within the Youth Space and wider Hub. The latest programme runs to the end of March 2017 and the working group are already planning to extend this to the end of June. The programme is collaborative in nature involving local community youth providers, funded by BCC and the Executive Office, and provides a range of activity for young people such as: arts, IT and sports for all encouraging access to the Hub. The addition of the media suite within the Youth Space provides an opportunity to reach older people and young parents as well as children and young people. The programme includes outreach and detached work which aims to support local young people at risk, reduce ASB on site and encourage involvement in the Youth Space and Hub.
- 3.19 <u>Shared Space:</u> The Girdwood Community Hub Forum established a Shared Space and Programming working group in August 2015 to develop and agree a shared space approach that will inform the programming of all areas of the Girdwood Community Hub. The key objectives of the Shared Space and Programming working group are:
  - Agree the establishment of a small group of stakeholders, with Belfast City Council, to oversee the development of the shared space approach and GCH programme
  - Consult with wider stakeholders through an engagement process which is agreed
  - Report back to the Girdwood Forum on progress

- Develop a communication protocol to ensure that the development process and the plan is appropriately communicated to all stakeholders
- Build in a monitoring process to measure and adjust the delivery of the shared space plan
- 3.20 Belfast City Council Good Relations Unit is facilitating the Shared Space and Programming working group. The group is composed of three nominated community representatives and representatives from BMC, GLL and BCC.
- 3.21 The Shared Space and Programming Group delivered a very successful summer programme in association with the local community organisations: this included the Girdwood Community Cup, which, due to the success of the event, the group has endorsed as an annual event for the Hub. A further highlight was the very well-attended performance of a hardhitting theatre piece, 'Those that we pass on the street', delivered by Kabosh Theatre Company and with a community-led facilitated conversation following the performance: this play was complemented with an exhibition on 'Everyday Objects' associated with the Troubles and delivered in association with Healing through Remembering.
- 3.22 The main focus of the Shared Space group over the last number of weeks has been the organisation of the community event 'Spring into Girdwood' on Saturday 25 March 2017. The event was an opportunity to celebrate and mark the first 12months of operation and the programme included a range of activities to cater for all ages ranges such as: Circus skills, inflatables, petting farm, animal interaction station, junior football tournament, birds of prey display, mountain biking skills, arts and crafts, performance acts, free BBQ, climbing wall, kiddies amusement rides, photobooth, music entertainment, playbus, a dedicated youth zone and go karts.
- 3.23 Community Safety: A recent Committee report noted Girdwood as one of a number of sites across the city affected with a level of criminal damage including inappropriate use of scramblers, abuse of staff/residents, rowdy and nuisance behaviour. Analysis of incident reports for the site shows the frequency of incidents at Girdwood as unpredictable, however, the level of ongoing nuisance and anti-social behaviour within the building and site remains of concern. In order to proactively maintain the safety and shared nature of the site/building, BCC chair the Girdwood 'Site Management and Operations' sub-group. The group, which meets monthly, includes BCC community safety and development officers and community and statutory representatives on the Forum including PSNI, DfC and Newington Housing Association. They recently completed a review of the Community Impact Assessment and the Site Management Protocol. The BCC Community Engagement

#### People and Communities Committee Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

Officer produces an incident report for each meeting using PSNI, GLL and BCC info. This information informs any recommendations for ameliorative action or development activity in order to promote the venue as a safe, welcoming space, inclusive for all.

3.24 There has been a decline in incidents reported since December 2016. While this is in part seasonal, it has also been positively supported by securing DfC investment to raise the height of the pitch fencing and, importantly, via the ongoing proactive youth engagement and outreach programme.

#### Community Benefit Project of the year

The development was awarded the coveted prize of 3.25 Community Benefit Project of the year at the Property Excellence Ireland Awards. It shared this prize jointly with Cosgrave Developments for their work at Honeypark in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The judges assessed Girdwood Community Hub's benefit to the community based on a range of criteria however the close links between the development team and the Girdwood Community Forum and the positive development of contested space were key to its success. This category is the only category that was voted on by members of the public and 70% of the vote was dictated by the public vote, 30% by the judging panel. This category is central to the Corporate Social Responsibility aspect of the programme and was the most highly contested category of the entire awards ceremony.

#### **Developing the Hub**

3.26 The development is the first step in the wider regeneration of Girdwood Park by the Department for Communities against the Girdwood Masterplan agreed by the Executive in May 2012. A development brief relating to the mixed use area appeared in the 3 main newspapers on 2 consecutive weeks in February 2017. The advert was to notify the public on how to request a copy of the development brief for consumption. DfC had previously worked with the Forum to agree content. DfC has commissioned the Strategic Investment

Board to look at the development of the indoor sports site. They will consult with the Forum and the wider community to inform any draft proposals. 3.27 There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

# 3.28 The Girdwood Community Forum has been cited as an example of good practice to support community engagement for this Shared Space development."

The Committee agreed to the request for political representation on the Girdwood Community Forum and referred the matter to the North Area Working Group for it to make a decision in respect of the appointments.

#### Provision of Containers and other Storage Accommodation

The Committee considered a report which set the Council's policy position in respect of the provision of containers for storage of machinery, materials and equipment.

The Assistant Director advised that containers would normally be acquired when the Council determined a need to provide safe and secured storage for machinery and / or equipment required for the operation of a facility.

The Committee was asked to note that the proposed policy did not relate to requests for containers to be used as temporary dry changing facilities and meeting rooms. It also did not relate to requests from a third party sports club or other organisation in relation to machinery, materials, machinery and equipment acquired or used by a third party (and not provided by the Council).

The Committee agreed that:

- where containers were required by Council in the operation of a facility that the Council would provide a container;
- where containers were required or requested by a third party the Council would not provide such but would consider granting permission for the third party to provide containers; and
- a protocol document would be prepared based on the report and be used to inform future decisions.

#### Belfast Handyperson Home Safety Check and Repair Service - Update

The Committee was reminded that it had previously approved the delivery of home safety assessments for older people through the Bryson Energy Handy Person Service.

The Assistant Director reported that that the scheme had now been operational for 2 years at a cost in the region of  $\pounds$ 34,377 per annum. She advised that the funding for this scheme had been provided by the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the scheme

#### People and Communities Committee Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

had been managed by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT). Following a procurement exercise, Bryson Energy had been awarded the contract to carry out the home safety checks and repairs.

The Committee was reminded also that it had previously approved an additional financial contribution from the Council of £10,000 towards the scheme. This money was used to discount the cost of additional repairs requested by the householder during the home safety checks.

The officer reported that the pilot had now came to an end and the partners had agreed that, given the benefit the service provided to the citizens of Belfast, it should continue long term. She advised that the current service contract had been extended for a further 12 months to allow for the future development of the project to be finalised. In addition, the partners had also requested if the Council would consider procuring and managing the service.

The Assistant Director advised that between the period of April and February 2017, 436 home safety checks, 117 repair hours (PHA) and 212 additional repair hours (Belfast City Council) had been carried out/undertaken and overall there had been very positive feedback on the scheme.

The Committee agreed:

- that from April 2018 the Council would procure and manage the Home Safety Check and Repair Service on behalf of its partners; and
- to continue supporting the Belfast Handyperson Scheme and approved a financial contribution of £10,000 to the scheme for the financial year 2017/2018 from existing budgets.

#### Request for the use of the Cathedral Gardens for Christian Aid "Refugee Solidarity Sleep Out" Event

The Director advised that a request had been received from Christian Aid seeking permission to use Cathedral Gardens from 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 12th May until 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 13th May. He explained that the event aimed to show solidarity with refugees across Europe and the Middle East who were forced to sleep out every night.

The Members were advised that this event would require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the site and would involve Christian Aid supporters erecting tents and sleeping out overnight on-site. In addition to the small camp, a larger tent would be erected. This would contain an exhibition highlighting Christian Aid's work with refugees in Lebanon, Iraq, Greece and Serbia.

The Committee approved the Christian Aid Event at Cathedral Gardens, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the Event Organiser meets all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety and licensing responsibilities; and
- the Event Organiser consults with adjoining public bodies, the local community and the PSNI as necessary.

#### Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWW) National Conference, London

The Committee authorised the attendance of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and up to two relevant officers to attend the CIWM National Conference in London from 27th – 28th June.

#### Street Naming

The Committee approved:

- The naming in respect of Haddo Place, Haddo Crescent, and Haddo Lane, off Lady Ishbel Avenue, BT8; and
- the continuation of existing streets in the City , namely, Lady Ishbel Avenue, off Hospital Road, BT8.

#### Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee considered again the following report which had been deferred at its meeting held on 7th March 2017:

#### Appendix 1

#### "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 This report outlines a series of proposed outdoor events, delivered by large arts organisations, in partnership with the Council. Each event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
  - Agree to review events in Parks and Open Spaces as part of the city-wide events framework, in line with the corporate strategic review of events and festivals, and the programme of work for the European Capital of Culture bid;
  - Approve the series of partnership events as set out below, including funding requested, the closure of facilities as required for the set-up, delivery and takedown of the events, resolving all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
  - Agree that the appropriate legal agreements for each programme, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the Town Solicitor;

#### People and Communities Committee Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

- Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing (including for the sale of alcohol, where required);
- Agree the timely payment of the agreed charges and bonds as required in the legal agreements; and
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.
- 3.0 <u>Main report</u>

#### **Background**

- 3.1 Over the past 5 years, the Council has established successful partnership arrangements with the Belfast Festival, Feile an Phobail and Belfast Mela. These type of events are well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces.
- 3.2 The partnership has delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets. Last year, these partnerships delivered events in North (Girdwood), West (Falls/City Cemetery), South (Botanic) and City Centre (City Hall).
- 3.3 In February, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee gave approval for the Council to explore the potential for a bid to become the UK host for the 2023 European Capital of Culture. As part of this, a diverse high quality programme of events will be developed, with the support of city stakeholders. It is clear that this developing programme would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the city's parks and open spaces. It is therefore proposed that it is timely for officers to initiate a review of this particular series of partnership events in parks, with a view to streamlining within a corporate approach as agreed by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. It is anticipated that this review would be complete in time for the 2018/19 programme of events, to be brought to People and Communities Committee for its consideration in due course.

#### Proposals for 2017

3.4 Following discussions with the 3 existing partners, a series of events has been proposed for the incoming season:

- Belfast Mela a multicultural festival for approximately 20,000 people to be held in Botanic Gardens in partnership with ArtsEkta;
- Feile an Phobail a number of events in the vicinity of Falls Park, including marquee events and historical tours of City Cemetery; and
- Belfast International Arts Festival a programme of family-focussed outdoor theatre events in East and centre of the city.

Further detail on each event is provided below.

#### Belfast Mela

- 3.5 The Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 27 August 2017.
- 3.6 It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000) given the positive economic impact it has for the city, improved good relations and attractiveness of the Council assets.
- 3.7 As a condition to funding, it is recommended that ArtsEkta is requested to facilitate community engagement and taster events in other local neighbourhoods, to build the audience from across the city. Specific locations could be identified in conjunction with the Community Parks Outreach team, ensuring a spread across the city.
- 3.8 In particular, the Mela organisers have highlighted the imminent completion of the Tropical Ravine and they are working with the Outreach team, in order to profile this city heritage venue as part of its launch.
- 3.9 In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:
  - 1. In this particular instance the Council has received a request for use for Upper and Lower Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 27 August 2017 from midday to 7.00pm;
  - 2. The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
  - 3. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 21st August to 30th August 2017 inclusive in Botanic Gardens;

- 4. ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access will be restricted to ticket holders only;
- 5. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy; and
- 6. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.
- 3.10 Consultation by ArtsEkta will be undertaken with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.

#### Feile an Phobail

- 3.11 Feile an Phobail has requested permission to organise a number of events in Falls Park. They may require the use of other Council facilities e.g. bowling pavilion as the final list of events have not yet been finalised. Similar to previous years, the events include:
  - Carnival parade through Falls Park
  - Teddy Bears picnic in Falls Park
  - Feile family entertainment day in the park, music events and family entertainment
  - Guided historical tours in the City Cemetery which would be charged for appropriately by the tour provider.
- 3.12 In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are :
  - 1. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 25th July up to 20th August 2017 inclusive in Falls Park. Feile runs over the period 3rd August to 13th August;
  - 2. The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
  - 3. An occasional licence will be applied for by the organisers for the sale of alcohol and an entertainment licence for the period of the event;
  - 4. This application will be supported by an Event Management Plan and will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;
  - 5. Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.

3.13 A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which, due to the nature of the events, will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

#### **Belfast International Arts Festival**

- 3.14 The Council has received a proposal from Belfast International Arts Festival to deliver a programme of free, family-focused events in City Hall grounds and CS Lewis Square. This programme rotates around the city and was in Girdwood Park in 2016.
- 3.15 The proposed event to be held at City Hall and CS Lewis Square is Motosikai (pronounced moto-see-k'eye) is a unique, outdoor circus show from Race Horse Company, the acclaimed daredevil Finnish circus company. Motosikai is a mobile and adjustable show performed out of a van packed with circus equipment. The three circus artists perform teeterboard and acrobatic stunts with great humour and skill - appearing and disappearing from the confines of the van via a hidden trampoline. Energetic, full of surprises and endlessly entertaining, it is designed to entertain children and adults alike. The show will be performed two times a day. The whole show fits in the van which doubles as the set and can therefore be presented in two separate sites across the city. Motosikai is a 40 minute performance that will be accompanied by performances and workshops from local circus performers.
- 3.16 In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:
  - 1. The final locations are determined by health and safety requirements of the performers there may be some minor changes to final locations;
  - 2. The event will require restricted access to all or a substantial proportion of each facility;
  - 3. The events will be held during the Festival programme which runs 6th to 28th October, likely to be a Saturday and Sunday to maximise family attendance at the event;
  - 4. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy; and
  - 5. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

- 3.17 The proposal is a good fit with the policy objectives of the Council in that it is family friendly work that is participatory and fun. It will animate our public spaces whilst also providing educational learning opportunities for children and young people.
- 3.18 It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000), given the positive economic impact it has for the city, promoting connectivity and attractiveness of the Council assets.
- 3.19 In addition, as part of the programme a special free presentation of the iconic and critically acclaimed sculptural installation, *Poppies: Weeping Window* will be installed at the Ulster Museum. With over 150,000 expected to visit Botanic Gardens to see the Poppies installation, Council outreach officers at the Tropical Ravine are considering additional family activities in the park to maximise visitors' experience of the park. This will be done within existing Council budgets.

#### Financial & Resource Implications

**Finance** 

3.20 Up to £40,000 for the overall programme, from existing Council revenue funds.

#### <u>Human</u>

3.21 Staff may be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and this will be charged to the hirer, in line with the process adopted in previous years.

#### **Asset and Other Implications**

3.22 Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk to Council assets.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.23 The Events Policy for Parks and Leisure facilities and venues was previously screened. It is anticipated that this range of events will deliver a positive impacts for equality and good relations."

The Committee then considered a report which provided additional information in respect of the funding that each of the three partner organisations received.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that the nature, duration and number of each of the three proposed events differed and it was therefore difficult to compare like for like. He also reminded the Committee that, a corporate strategic review, in respect of the funding of festivals and events, was currently being undertaken and advised that a report on this matter would be submitted to a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Following consideration:

It was moved by Councillor Magennis; and Seconded by Councillor Austin:

"That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations as outlined and also award additional financial support of £10,000 to Feile an Phobail, to bring it in line with the funding requested for the Belfast International Arts Festival and the Belfast Mela."

On a vote by show of hands, eight Members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared carried.

#### Finance

#### Community Development Grants Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
- 1.1 To provide an update on the Community Development Grants Programme funding allocation based on the interim financial contract arrangements with the Department for Communities.
- 2.0 <u>Recommendations</u>
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to;
  - Note the limited offer of Community Support Grant income from DfC and agree to;
    - i. extend existing grant contracts to 30 June 2017 to organisations in receipt of Generalist Advice, Capacity and Community Building Revenue grants;
    - ii. extend existing contracts to non-grant support organisations to 30 June 2017; and
    - iii. progress small grants contracts for Summer scheme and project grants.

A further report will be presented to Committee when we receive information from DfC regarding future allocation of funding.

- 3.0 <u>Main report</u>
- 3.1 Overview

In the absence of the Budget Act, the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Finance has released interim funding. Council has received its Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities noting an allocation of £351,000 to cover the period 01 April to 30 June 2017. This inhibits Council from offering 12month contracts to organisations and may impact on the implementation of the Small Grants element of our grants programme.

- 3.2 Council has agreed a budget of £3,061,979.21 towards the delivery of the Community Development Grants Programme 2017/18. The budget is made up from the following sources of funding;
  - £1,404,000 from the Department for Communities under the Community Support Programme,
  - £1,657,979.20 from Council
- 3.3 The Community Development Grants Programme contains the following grant Categories:
  - Generalist Advice
  - Capacity Support
  - Community Buildings Revenue
  - Small Grants (inc Summer Scheme and Community Development Project Grants)
- 3.4 The Revenue budget also covers our non grant support for the sector via current financial support arrangements with organisations who deliver services on our behalf across the city in respect of;
  - Independently managed community centres
  - Anchor Tenants and
  - Service Level Agreement with Play Resource Warehouse
- 3.5 In February 2017, committee agreed that officers would advise Community Development Grant supported organisations that funding contracts will be offered pending Council's receipt of funding from DfC.

#### 3.6 Department for Communities Funding Allocation

Members will be aware that in the absence of a Budget Act, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance will use powers assigned to him under Section 59 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, to release cash to departments on an interim basis and until such times as a Budget is agreed by Ministers and Budget legislation is put in place.

3.7 Council received its Letter of Offer (LOO) towards the Community Support Programme from the Department for Communities on 30 March 2017. The LOO covers the limited 3 month period from the 01 April to 30 June 2017: an allocation of £351,000. This is an emergency response and when a budget is set by Ministers, further funding decisions will then be made. While this is temporary fix, it is critical to sustaining organisations and services.

#### 3.8 Key Issues

- i. It is normal practice for Council to offer annual funding contracts to recipients of the larger grants and those organisations that receive non-grant support. The interim CSP grant income will limit grant extension to the same 3 month period. These organisations rely on Council's funding to deliver and maintain essential services.
- ii. Council is due to make awards under summers scheme and project grants. Given the seasonal nature of projects, any delay in payment of these grants will have a detrimental impact on the provision of summer schemes throughout the city and on the delivery of programmes by community organisations.

#### 3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

The following is an estimated based on a 3 month allocation to;

_	Generalist Advice:	£232,941.38
_	Capacity Building:	£176,456.05
_	Revenue:	£217,878.36
_	Non Grant Support:	£ 80,296.75
Full allocation:		
Summer Scheme:		£177,529.00
Project Grants:		£54,160.00

#### 3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

## There are no equality or good relations implications to this report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out within the report.

Chairperson