

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 13th June, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers, McCoubrey and McKee; and
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Garrett, Heading, Lyons, Magennis, McCusker, McCabe,
Newton, Milne, Nicholl and O'Neill.

Also attended: Councillors O'Hara and McGimpsey.

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.

Death of Councillor Mervyn Jones

The Chairperson stated that he wished, on behalf of the Committee, to pay tribute to Councillor Jones and record its deepest sympathy to his family circle and also to the Alliance Party.

Noted.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting of 1st June.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update in Respect of Presentations at Forthcoming Meetings

The Committee agreed that:

- representatives from Contact NI would be invited to present, along with the Housing Executive, at the Special Meeting of the People and Communities Committee to be held on Wednesday, 2nd August; and
- representatives from Belfast Healthy Cities would be invited to present at the August meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, 8th August.

Restricted

The Information contained in the following three reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Community Development Grants Programme

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the issues relating to the implementation of the Community Development Grants Programme 2017/18 and which offered options for the delivery of the 2018/19 programme.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that, given the complexities relating to the funding of the Programme and the current lack of clarity on the total available budget, officers were not in a position to present the Committee with informed options to enable it to make a decision. In addition, he reminded the Committee that the Council was currently in the process of tendering for a strategic review of its grants programmes which could take up to 18 months to implement.

The Committee:

- agreed to grant delegated authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to extend the existing Community Development Grant Programme large grant funding contracts (2017/18) linked to any received extension to Community Support Programme grant income;
- noted that the contract extensions would be directly linked to and be commensurate with the terms of the DfC Letter of Offer variance. This would include organisations in receipt of Generalist Advice, Capacity and Community Building Revenue Grants and contracts to non-grant supported organisations; and
- noted the complexities in relation to potential funding for the Community Development Grant Programme 2018/19 and agreed that a further outline report would be submitted once the Community Support Programme evaluation became available and the current review of Belfast City Council grants had been undertaken.

Britain in Bloom Awards

The Committee considered a report which provided details regarding Belfast City Council having been given the opportunity to host the 2018 Britain in Bloom Awards. The Committee noted that this event had not been held in Northern Ireland before. It was proposed that this prestigious event would be held in the Waterfront Hall and anticipated that 500 - 550 people from England, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland would attend.

The Assistant Director advised that the total cost to Belfast City Council would be a maximum of £25,000 which would be funded from existing revenue budgets. The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) had confirmed that it

would contribute £2,500 towards the cost of the event and the Council had also applied to the Belfast and Northern Ireland Conference Subvention Scheme for £10,000. The Assistant Director advised that officers would investigate other funding stream options.

The Committee granted:

- authority for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and 3 officers to attend the Britain in Bloom Awards Ceremony, in Wales, in October 2017; and
- permission for Belfast City Council to host the Britain in Bloom Awards Ceremony in October 2018.

Request for the use of Boucher Road Playing Fields

The Committee was advised that a request had been received for the use of the playing fields at Boucher Road for one show that would include a number of acts. The Assistant Director stated that the acts for the concert had not all been confirmed but it was proposed that they would be top international acts and it was estimated that the concert would have a capacity of 40,000 plus staff.

The Committee granted authority to Akin Promotions to hold a concert at Boucher Road Playing Fields during the period 1st May -18th May 2018, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the event organiser resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the event organiser meets all statutory requirements, including entertainment licensing.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Committee Plan for 2017-18

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Service advised the Committee that at the planning workshop, held on 15th February, a number of priorities and actions had been identified within the context of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan and these had been included in the Committee Plan for 2017-18.

The Members were advised that the Committee plan was available on the Council's website [here](#) and it was noted that the Committee would receive a 6 monthly progress update report.

The Committee approved the People and Communities Committee Plan for 2017-18.

Waste Framework

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

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Members are requested to approve the attached draft strategy scenarios for managing waste – ‘*The Waste Framework*’.

1.2 Members may recall that there were a series of Party Group Briefings held on this topic during May which highlighted the focus of the Waste Framework upon four areas: Waste Collection Arrangements, Infrastructure, Behaviour Change and Technology. Useful feedback was received from these briefings and a number of amendments/enhancements were made to the Waste Framework to reflect these comments which is now being presented for consideration.

1.3 Following approval, a consultation exercise and programme of engagement will be developed to consult with stakeholders. This is to ensure that householders’ and others’ views are gathered to inform a final drafting of the Waste Framework which will then be reported to the Committee for final ratification, expected to be in late autumn.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve the draft ‘*Waste Framework*’ for consultation later this year.**

3.0 Key findings

3.1 Members may be aware that Waste Management has been developing a 10 year Waste Strategy and have sought to incorporate issues relating to emerging legislative requirements, changes in the local marketplace, the current status of arc21’s residual waste treatment facilities and Brexit. The Service has also been carefully considering how expenditure could be minimised, efficiency savings could be delivered and revenues maximised for the Council. This has resulted in a series of realistic scenarios being developed to achieve a 50% household waste recycling target and save money, while also aligning with the Belfast Agenda objectives of supporting job creation. Waste Management

has drawn carefully from experiences and recommendations from both Scotland and Wales to inform the development of this draft strategy, as both these regions have implemented progressive and forward-looking policies and strategies which their councils are now implementing.

- 3.2 Waste Management has also been in discussions with the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) officers in Wales (the third best performing recycling country in the world) and WRAP HQ (currently providing advice to several Governments across the world), as well as Zero Waste Scotland to test the assumptions used in the draft and critically review its content. As Members will recall, at several recent Committee meetings questions have been raised about how waste can play a more central role in creating and supporting jobs in Belfast, and this draft strategy has been designed specifically to focus upon improving the quality of recyclables collected so that it can make a more positive contribution to the circular economy and the jobs target contained within the Belfast Agenda. WRAP is in the process of formally responding to the draft Framework and their comments will be incorporated into the final version for Members' consideration later this financial year.
- 3.3 Of particular note, after modelling and interpretation, the recommended option in the Waste Framework aligns closely with the Collections Blueprint published in 2011 by the Welsh Government and to which several councils are presently transitioning. This blueprint was drafted to contribute to the delivery of '*one planet living*' and emphasises the need for councils to generate as high quality recyclables as possible in order to produce suitable materials for remanufacture – as close to the point of origin as possible. Further details on these recommendations are available at <http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Municipal%20Sector%20Plan%20Wales%20-%20Collections%20Blueprint.pdf>.
- 3.4 In Northern Ireland, last year WRAP were contracted by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to conduct a Recycling Gap Analysis study of councils' waste collection operations with a view to determining if there were common elements which could be introduced to deliver the 50% recycling target (e.g. providing a separate collection service for food waste). Working with a small working group of senior technical directors and managers, WRAP modelled a number of scenarios at a regional level which, similar to what's been promoted in

Wales, highlighted that a range of opportunities existed for councils to improve their performance based upon amending their approaches to waste collection and practices at their Household Recycling Centres. On a council-by-council basis, this study also drilled into what councils should consider and provided tailored recommendations. Several neighbouring councils are now implementing some of the recommendations relevant to them; which are similar to some of the approaches presented within the draft Waste Framework. Depending upon the results of the consultation exercise, this raises the prospect of collaborative working on waste collection and associated services in years to come.

3.5 Returning to Belfast, the challenge is to achieve a 50% recycling target for household waste while making best use of the resources available. Notwithstanding that the Council outperformed its benchmark class and has been recognised as best practice for implementing the '*Towards Zero Waste*' Action Plan, a paradigm shift is needed if this target is to be delivered. This objective has been further emphasised with the SoLACE, NILGA, DAERA and SIB action plan, approved by the Council in October 2016, to

1. (produce) minimal municipal waste
2. Achieve the 2020 target of recycling 50% of household waste and preparing to contribute to meeting the 65% municipal waste recycling target by 2030
3. Maximum recovery and use of energy from residual waste in NI
4. Sufficient licensed landfill capacity in NI (being) provided

3.6 As mentioned above, the Waste Framework has been drafted after careful consideration of the realistic options facing the Council to create jobs/increase recycling and taking several of the council-specific WRAP recommendations. What has been highlighted is that business as usual will result in a spiral of reducing or stagnant performance, and increasing costs. Change will only be achieved with a fundamental shift in the Council's approach to recycling and service delivery. Where possible, opportunities to realise efficiency gains have been identified as well as to increase income generation, but an investment of financial and other resources will be necessary to achieve the objectives within the Waste Framework, albeit some scenarios have potential for invest-to-save or increased income opportunities. Depending upon the scenario chosen, there may also be DAERA capital funding available to offset some of the costs over the next five years, or so.

- 3.7 To provide independent scrutiny, the Assurance, Governance & Risk Service (AGRS) reviewed the draft and relevant comments have been incorporated into the version appended to this report (available on modern.gov).
- 3.8 It is worth reiterating that the draft Waste Framework envisages that significant change will be needed to collection operations, infrastructure and behaviour change, supported by technology and there may be particular sectors which have potential to assist the Council deliver the 50% target, such as the social sector. In addition to conducting the modelling and analysis, the Service has also used the results from the WRAP Recycling Gap Analysis study for Belfast to check the scenarios developed for the draft Framework – there is a close correlation. The WRAP results for Belfast reinforce that a paradigm shift is needed to improve performance and these conclusions are now informing specific research into a '*Belfast Collections Options*' to meet the legislative requirements for the Council to conduct a Technical, Economic & Environmentally Practicable (TEEP) assessment which is drawing to a close.
- 3.9 Members may recall that last year Waste Management formed a collaborative partnership with WRAP to develop a Circular Economy strategy – '*Resourceful Belfast*'. The objective of this strategy is to move beyond waste and to identify what is needed to increase training opportunities, jobs and sectors in NI which could use the materials collected by better segregated waste; this strategy will shortly be finalised. Recognising that waste collections played a crucial role in this, delivery of the TEEP assessment is being completed as part of this collaborative partnership. Initial findings support the Waste Collection Arrangements in the Waste Framework and the need to focus upon ensuring quality recyclables are collected from householders; the final report will play a fundamental role in any recommendations to be presented to Members alongside the results from the consultation exercise.
- 3.10 Last month, party group briefings were held for Members to outline the steps needed to deliver the changes required, following which relevant amendments were made to the draft document. The draft Framework highlights that considerable effort and a fundamental shift of approach is needed if Belfast is to deliver a household waste recycling rate of 50% and beyond. The briefings also highlighted that the arc21 residual waste treatment contract, whether operational by 2020 or not, would treat and dispose of the same waste as is

currently being managed by the Council – with the same proportion being recovered. So, in terms of contributing to the recycling, this would not make a material difference to the Council's performance. Should arc21 not be realised, the mid/longer-term scenarios for dealing with residual waste are contained within the draft Framework, but these would need further consideration in this eventuality.

- 3.11 If Members are satisfied with this report, the next step will be to prepare the questions for stakeholder consultation on the respective separate elements, and a programme of engagement will be developed to present the scenarios relevant to different audiences. If Members approve this Waste Framework, an '*implementation plan*' will be developed to frame appropriate parts of the document for consultation and/or development (e.g. some proposals, such as the Waste Collection Arrangements should be tested with householders, while other aspects will not affect them). Once key decision points are reached, reports will be presented to Members for consideration, alongside any supplementary evidence provided from other sources, for example, views from WRAP (Cymru) and Zero Waste Scotland on the Waste Framework, the results from the TEEP assessment, consultants reports on Infrastructure and Technology.
- 3.12 In terms of the implementation plan, the obvious starting point is the Waste Collection Arrangements and Behaviour Change actions which householders are likely to experience as the Council strives to improve our opportunity to support job creation. Waste Management will work closely with WRAP, Corporate Communications and any additional communications support to develop a comprehensive consultation approach using appropriate mechanisms, such as a Citizen Space survey on the Council's website, to design information for drop in events, and to engage with appropriate focus groups.
- 3.13 The priority will be on expediting the consultation exercise so that reports on the views and recommendations can be presented to Members for consideration in as timely a manner as possible. This is also likely to be of critical importance to ensure that the Council is in a position to make use of any DAERA funding which may be available. By way of example of the type of questions which are being drafted, these will focus on improvements which the different scenarios offer to service delivery. For example, they may consist of the following:

1. Would you be happy to recycle a wider range of materials for the kerbside?
 2. If recycling services were provide on a weekly basis would you be likely to recycle more? (outer city)
 3. Would you be more likely to recycle food waste if we collected the waste on a weekly basis? (outer city)
 4. Would a weekly glass collection service encourage you to recycle glass? (outer city)
 5. How important to you is using recyclable materials to help create jobs in NI?
 6. Do you think that providing a trolley for you boxes would make it easier for you to recycle?
- 3.14 Waste Management is also currently working with a student anthropologist from Queens University, Belfast to examine attitudes to recycling in a particular part of the city (inner west) which will also contribute findings to the consultation process.
- 3.15 Finally, WRAP have invited stakeholders to a seminar entitled '*Bridging the Recycling Gap*' on 22 June in Templepatrick. This half day seminar will specifically be considering addressing how to transform recycling locally to meet recycling targets while also supplying more materials to support and grow the NI economy – drive development of the Circular Economy. If Members are interested in attending they could either contact the Head of Waste Management on extension 3311, or contact Mr Patterson, Wrap. Further details of this event are appended to this report (available on modern.gov).

HR/Financial/Asset/Equality Implications

- 3.16 There are no HR/financial/equality implications associated with this report however there will be human resource and financial implications associated with implementing the draft Waste Framework both during the consultation stage, and depending upon the decisions taken thereafter.
- 3.17 Further HR/financial/equality implications will need to be identified and included within any future reports as the Waste Framework is considered and implemented.”

A Member stated that she felt the Members should have an input into the drafting of the consultation document. A further Member concurred with these comments and stressed the importance of highlighting the 'Circular Economy', that is, the benefits of recycling in creating and maintaining jobs and how waste and resources management could make a substantive contribution to the Belfast Agenda.

Following a query from a Member regarding recycling facilities at local schools, the Assistant Director advised that the Head of Waste Management would liaise with the Member directly and provide him with more information on the eco-schools initiative.

A further Member sought assurance that the draft document did not include proposals for the closure of any of the Council's civic amenity sites in the future.

The Assistant Director advised that the Waste Framework Document was a consultation document which was seeking views and opinions in respect of the optimisation of waste to 2025 and beyond. She assured the Committee that reports which would form the outcomes of the consultation process would, in due course, be submitted to future meetings and that any suggestions/proposals regarding the long-term future of any of the Council's facilities would be made at that stage in the process.

The Committee approved the draft "*Waste Agenda Framework*" for consultation later in 2017. It was further agreed that officers would liaise with the Elected Members around the content of the consultation document and that the briefing document would be forwarded to Party Group Leaders in advance of circulation.

Update on Boxing Strategy

The Committee considered a report which detailed a proposal that had been received from the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) and County Antrim Boxing requesting £101,000 in funding per annum for the next 3-4 years.

The Assistant Director reminded the Members that the Council had developed a 10 year amateur boxing strategy for the City in partnership with County Antrim Boxing, the Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) and the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA). The Council had previously committed £200,000 per annum for 3 years for the implementation of phase 1 of the strategy, which had included funding to put in place a Sports Development Officer (appointed in April 2014) and 2 Community Based Coaches. She advised that due to the delay in appointing staff there had been a significant underspend in Year 1 and this had been used to finance the implementation of year 4. The agreed financial support for the implementation of the strategy had come to an end on 31st March, 2017.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th March, it had agreed that 15% of the total Support for Sport Fund for 2017/18 (up to £24,000) would be allocated to support the delivery of the Strategy. The Committee had also agreed to review resources to support the Boxing Strategy and to investigate short-term arrangements for the two Community based coaches for a temporary period of 3 months. The officer advised that one of the coaches had now left the Council and the other's contract had been extended to June, 2017.

The Assistant Director reported that Council officers had been working with the IABA and County Antrim Boxing to try and identify potential funding sources but, to date, these had been limited to small funding streams. The IABA and County Antrim Boxing had developed a proposal requesting £101,000 per annum additional financial support from the Council for the next 3-4 years. The officer advised the Committee that there

was currently no allocation in the department's budget for this amount and added that the Director of Finance and Resources had further advised that due to the recurrent nature of this funding request it would have to be considered as part of the rate setting process for 2018/19.

A Member outlined the achievements that the sport had delivered throughout the City and welcomed the proposal from the IABA and County Antrim Boxing which would enable the Boxing Strategy to continue.

Another Member stated that, whilst he appreciated the contribution that boxing as a sport made, it was impossible for the Council to continue its support inevitably as there were many other sports not in receipt of Council funding support and which also did excellent work.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was:

Moved by Councillor Garrett; and
Seconded by Councillor Magennis:

That the Committee would support the proposal from the IABA and County Antrim Boxing for £101,000 of funding to continue with the implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy for a further year and that the matter be referred to the June meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for it to determine if the required £101,000 funding could be met from the 2016/17 year end underspend budget.

On a vote by a show of hands eleven Members voted for the proposal and two against and it was declared carried.

Emergency Planning Service Report

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 the Committee on emergency planning and civil contingencies matters of interest over the last 14 months and to highlight updated mutual aid arrangements between councils and partner organisations.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the information contained in the report and to agree to the Council engaging in the arrangements set out in the following protocols and Memorandum of Understanding. These arrangements will enable the**

Council to receive and provide support in certain emergency situations.

- District Council Mutual Aid Protocol
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and each district council regarding epizootic diseases
 - Protocol to enable Belfast and the other district councils to use the NI Housing Executive's Emergency Call-Off Contracts
- approve the development of a protocol between the Council and the relevant voluntary and faith organisations to enable the Council to seek assistance (if required) when co-ordinating the recovery aspects from a major emergency.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Emergency Incidents between April 2016 and April 2017

- There was flash flooding on the 12th and again on the 29th June 2016 which caused a significant number of surface water related incidents and internal flooding to a small number of properties, with 4 Belfast residents receiving £1000 payments.
- The number of security alerts when the Council Emergency Planning team was required to respond was fewer than in previous years. The main need for community support centres continued to be at night when residents were most vulnerable. Six centres were made available during the last 14 months.
- A number of significant fires occurred during the year, including one at a waste treatment plant in West Belfast on 30th August 2016 when a major incident was declared by the NI Fire and Rescue Service. The fire continued to burn for a number of days. On 11th January 2017 there was a large fire at a Petrol Station on the Stewartstown Road. This had the potential to be very dangerous with the risk of explosion. Residents were evacuated from six homes and went to stay with friends and family. An Emergency Rest Centre was kept on standby at Sally Gardens Community Centre during the incident.
- A prolonged power outage in west Belfast on 28th August 2016 was significant and at one point consideration was given to evacuating the Syrian Refugee Welcome Centre where a new group of

refugees had just arrived. Emergency Planning made arrangements for the evacuation but NI Electricity Networks were able to provide a generator and restored power to the Centre before this was necessary.

- There were a number of responses to gas related incidents during the year including a suspected gas leak at Mount Collyer on 24th October 2016 which resulted in the evacuation of Currie Primary School. The pupils were evacuated to the Mount Collyer Centre and looked after until collected by parents.
- A mains gas leak at the Old Holywood Road on 12th March 2017 led to residents being evacuated to Avoniel Leisure Centre and provided with shelter and welfare until able to return home.
- In East Belfast on 20th December 2016 there was a carbon monoxide (CO) gas leak caused by an underground cable fire. These types of gas leaks are particularly dangerous as the carbon monoxide can make its way into people's homes through ducts for underground pipes and cables. In this incident one person received an electric shock and another person was treated for gas inhalation.

Training and exercises

3.2 Council staff have been involved in a number of multi-Agency emergency exercises during recent months. These have included:

- A desktop exercise using the facilities in the City Hall Emergency Coordination Centre involving a terrorist attack on a major city centre shopping venue, with simultaneous bomb scares at local visitor attractions. The exercise was attended by various retailers and agencies including the BCC security team and provided excellent learning for all.
- Responding to a water crisis 'Operation Samba' led by NI Water,
- Setting up an Emergency Support Centre for vulnerable people at Whiterock Community Centre,
- Dealing with major industrial accidents led by external consultants Risk & Resilience
- Managing pollution control at Belfast Harbour with the deployment of a boom to contain an oil spill,
- Co-ordinating the response to a building collapse with mass casualties and fatalities,
- Managing coastal flooding at the PSNI Hydra suite (with a camera feed input from the Lord Mayor) and;

- Observation of an animal disease outbreak exercise at DAERA's Local Epizootic Disease Control Centre (LEDCC).

3.3 Individual Property Protection (IPP) Scheme & Flood Re Insurance Scheme

The Rivers Agency Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme was launched in April 2016 and applications have been received from all over N. Ireland. Contractors will be appointed by Rivers Agency during the year 2017/18 to do surveys and carry out installations. There have been 96 applications in total and to date 65 have been approved, 13 of these were in the Belfast area, 7 of which have been approved. Surveys have been completed and they are now awaiting the appointment of a contractor by Rivers Agency to carry out the work. The remaining 6 did not meet the eligibility criteria, mainly because 5 of them are in the Sicily Park / Greystown area where NI Water has drainage improvement schemes planned.

The 'Flood Re' insurance scheme was also launched in April 2016, a joint Government and Insurance industry initiative to enable homeowners who have flooded or are at risk of flooding to avail of affordable home insurance. This was communicated to Belfast residents in the July-August 2016 edition of City Matters along with the handy pull out wallet sized card of emergency contact numbers.

3.4 Community Emergency Plans

Community Emergency Plans continue to enable residents in flood risk areas to prepare for flooding incidents. In Belfast five plans have been established for Sydenham, Braniel, Cregagh, Finaghy and Orchardville areas. Communication and preparedness arrangements with the residents worked well during the heavy rain in June 2016.

In these areas sandbag containers have been provided along with some Flooding road signs, empowering residents to deploy sandbags based on weather warning information and discussion with the Emergency Planning team. Sandbag containers are now well distributed around the city and are regularly checked by the Emergency Planning team for stock and access. Additional equipment such as brushes, shovels, wheelbarrows and first aid kits have also been placed in the main sandbag containers for community use. The information gives details of sandbag container locations, numbers of sandbags and other community resilience equipment placed in the containers.

The emergency planning team will liaise with the Met Office and drainage agencies at times of severe weather to ensure the containers are accessible to communities in flood affected areas. Please note the proposed change of location for the container at Andersonstown Leisure Centre, it is moving to Whiterock Leisure Centre, and the proposed new container at Orchardville Day Centre.

3.5 Flood Risk and Planning

Following on from Rivers Agency presentation to the CG&R Committee in September 2015 there have been five very successful meetings between Rivers Agency and the Council (Planning, Emergency Planning, Property and Projects) and latterly NI Water and DfI. Useful discussions and information sharing has taken place concerning flood risk and implications for the Local Development Plan. This included a presentation by Atkins Consultants on the 'Belfast Tidal Study', detailing recommendations to protect Belfast from tidal flooding.

3.6 Multi-Agency Protocols

Prior to local government reform Belfast City Council had signed a number of protocols and memorandums of understanding to support effective emergency response and recovery arrangements both in Belfast and across the region. These arrangements have recently been reviewed and updated and district councils have been asked to sign the updated protocols. These include a DAERA Epizootic Disease MoU, this was previously held between the Council and DARD and involved the Council potentially providing manpower and equipment to the Department in the event of a major outbreak of a disease such as Foot and Mouth. The MoU is not binding and resources would only be provided on a full cost recovery basis. The second is a District Council Mutual Aid Protocol, which enables councils to assist each other during a major emergency incident; and the third is a protocol to enable the councils to use NI Housing Executive Emergency Call-Off Contracts during major emergencies such as serious flooding incidents. All three documents have been reviewed and approved by Belfast City Council's Legal Services. Members are requested to agree to the Council signing up to these arrangements as they will benefit the people of Belfast during emergency situations.

A range of voluntary and faith organisations such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, the NI 4x4 Response Club and St. John Ambulance provide support in the response to emergencies via agreements with public sector organisations such as the emergency services and local Health & Social Care Trusts. Following the response phase of an emergency the Council often has responsibility for coordinating the multi-agency recovery aspects. However Belfast City Council does not currently have formal protocols in place with voluntary and faith organisations in relation to recovery. Organisations such as Samaritan's Purse, Street Pastors and those mentioned above have expressed a wish to help with this work. We would therefore seek approval from Committee to begin the development of a protocol between the Council and relevant voluntary and faith organisations to assist with recovery following major emergencies.

3.7 Emergency planning in Local Government

A review of civil contingencies arrangements in local government in NI was commissioned by the district councils and was completed late 2015. The report included a number of significant recommendations, particularly around legislation, structures for planning and response, leadership, and financial support for civil contingency arrangements. The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) worked with the Executive Office and DfC regarding implementation of the recommendations and a five year business case for funding the local government sector was agreed with DfC in January 2016. Belfast City Council has submitted a claim to DfC for its allocation of £102K for 2016-2017. Funding for the first quarter of 2017-2018 has now been offered by DfC and a further letter of offer is expected when issues to do with central government budgets have been resolved. On the strength of the agreed business case Belfast City Council agreed, on behalf of the other district councils, to host a regional officer post for local government civil contingencies; this was on the understanding that the full costs of the post and a support officer post would be met by DfC. The recruitment process was recently completed and the regional officer will be appointed in due course.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

The offer from DfC for the first quarters funding for the sub-regional multi-agency planning work for Belfast is

encouraging, as is an undertaking to continue to give this funding priority despite ongoing budgeting issues.

Appointment of the regional officer post will be subject to continued funding by DfC being made available for the post.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

A process is in place to ensure the Council's emergency planning arrangements are screened for equality issues."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Promotion of Organ Donation

The Assistant Director drew the Members' attention to a report which provided an update on the changes to the Human Transplantation Bill for Northern Ireland. She explained that these changes placed new statutory requirements on the Department of Health regarding the promotion of organ donation.

The officer provided the Committee with the following facts and figures relating to organ donation in Northern Ireland:

- at any one time there was approximately 150 people in Northern Ireland awaiting a transplantation and each year approximately 15 people died while waiting for an organ;
- while organ donation was supported by approximately 90% of the population, currently in Northern Ireland only 39% of people had signed the organ donation register; and
- Northern Ireland had the lowest consent rates for donation of any region in the United Kingdom (outside of London).

The Committee noted that low consent rates for donation had been linked to families not knowing the wishes of their loved ones and it was therefore felt that an effective strategy for the promotion of organ donation was required. In attempt to realise this, the Department of Health had identified the need for the Health and Social Care Trusts to work in partnership with local government and the voluntary sector to develop local communication plans to promote organ donation.

The Assistant Director advised that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, which was a statutory partner within the Belfast Agenda, had approached the Council, through the Organ Donation Committee (based at the Royal Victoria Hospital), for support in promoting Organ Donation Week that was being held from Monday, 4th – Sunday, 10th September. This would include the provision of promotional material within existing Council communication platforms, both external and internal, and also within Council facilities and workplaces.

The Committee noted the Council's current support for organ donation and agreed to accede to the Department of Health's request for the Council to work in

partnership with the Health and Social Care Trusts and the voluntary sector to try and promote organ donation more throughout Northern Ireland.

Mental Health and Addiction Support Services

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 bring to the Committee’s attention the Notice of Motion regarding Mental Health and Addiction Support Services considered by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May and to outline a proposed course of action to address the motion.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the content of the report**
- **Consider the arrangements for a strategic discussion event between the Council and its partners in the statutory, community and voluntary sectors. If agreed, this event will take place towards the end of September and the Council will host it in conjunction with Belfast Strategic Partnership.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Notice of Motion regarding Mental Health and Addiction Support Services, moved by Councillor O’Hara and seconded by Councillor McCabe, centred on the need for a city wide response to support communities in dealing with these issues in line with the commitment the Council has given, through the Belfast Agenda, to design and deliver an integrated programme to tackle health inequalities.

3.2 Through the Notice of Motion concern was expressed regarding the availability of joined up services designed to treat the complex issues of addiction, the misuse of drugs and alcohol, self-harm, suicidal tendencies, depression, anxiety and other mental health disorders. The Notice of Motion proposed a review of the level of provision of existing services and a strategic discussion on a more integrated and coordinated approach to delivering addiction and mental health services in Belfast.

- 3.3** At a major three day event held in Belfast last September the link between the misuse of alcohol and drugs and emotional distress and mental disorders was identified as a significant concern for the city. The event, organised by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Strategic Partnership used a ‘future search’ process to enable key organisations from all sectors across the city to identify the common ground they could commit to in terms of authority and resources to tackle the issue of suicide in Belfast.
- 3.4** There were eleven priorities identified that were considered by all participants to represent the best opportunity for preventing deaths by suicide in Belfast, a copy of the final report is attached at appendix 1, ‘Building Hope – Working Together to Prevent Suicide’. One of these areas was a commitment to working better together across mental health, suicide prevention and drugs and alcohol to jointly plan, jointly resource and jointly deliver services that meet the needs of people in a timely and relevant manner. This involved a commitment to resourcing co-morbidity treatment services for people with co-concurring mental health, suicide prevention and drugs and alcohol needs.
- 3.5** A programme of work has been developed for this year to begin the implementation of the recommendations from the Building Hope event. This work is being overseen by the Belfast Protect Life Implementation Group and a number of work-streams are particularly relevant to the issues identified in the Notice of Motion. In particular:
- The design of a new emotional resilience strategy and action plan for Belfast is underway.
 - A project team has been established to design an ‘Integrated Crisis Response Service’ and ‘Street Triage Mental Health Pathway’ for the city. It has representatives from the health sector, General Practitioners, PSNI, the NI Ambulance Service, the Belfast Alliance for Suicide Prevention (representing the community and voluntary sectors) and Belfast City Council. This is a significant and complex project that will require joint working between all sectors, creative thinking and collaborative resourcing. Outline proposals have been drafted and issues to do with clinical governance, data management, funding and logistics for pilot services are being considered. Belfast City Council’s Safer City Manager is also considering the community safety links with this project.

- There are other pieces of work due to be presented at an event on 27th June. These include the launch of the new Take5 Steps to Emotional Wellbeing Took Kit and the presentation of the findings of the second Have Your Say Belfast Survey, which took place last year and which was completed by over 4934 people in Belfast. The use of the Take5 Tool Kit and the survey findings will be influential in the above mentioned projects and in other work to improve mental health and emotional resilience in the city.

3.6 The report to the August Committee will outline how the formative work mentioned above has progressed and how the strategic discussion event in September could assist in moving it forward in the context of tackling health inequalities under the Belfast Agenda. It will also support discussions on potential gaps and identify what further action is required.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The Council's contribution to this work is being undertaken within existing budgets and there are no additional financial or resource implications at this stage.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Much of this work cuts across communities and sectors and is part of the work to tackle health inequalities and social wellbeing issues in the city."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Playground Improvement Programme 2017 - 2018

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 Members on the successful 2016/17 Playground Improvement Programme and outline plans for playground refurbishments in 2017/18. Members are asked to note that the refurbishments are funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed to for this work, in this financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Recommend to Committee the refurbishment of playground sites below under the Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme for financial year 2017/18.

• Blythefield
• Tullycarnett/Hanwood
• Musgrave Park
• Botanic
• Alexandra Park Upper
• Springhill Park
• Browns Square
• Falls Park
• Knocknagoney
• White Rise
• Areema

3.0 Main report

3.1 Playground Refurbishment Programme

Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme has made a significant impact on overall quality and play value to the city's playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility and play value, providing new inclusive playground equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works. In 2012 the Independent Playground Inspector classified 25% of our playground facilities as being 'poor' (quality score of 3.0 or less). However with continued investment over the last 5 years the Council has achieved the desired improvement in overall safety, quality and play value at each of the sites refurbished under the programme. The playgrounds improved under previous programmes are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit. The 2016/17 Improvement Programme which consisted of four major refurbishments and five minor/partial refurbishments has now been completed, moving their scores to the desired higher standard.

3.2 Members should note that this year's cycle of independent inspections has been undertaken again by Play Services Ireland Ltd. The 'quality' score allocated for each playground is based on compliance with European safety standards BS EN 1176 & 1177. The inspection reports also continue to identify and prioritise repairs to existing equipment and

these repairs are undertaken by either Facilities Management or our own Playground Inspectors.

(Appendix 2 is available on modern.gov – sample copy of the Independent Playground Inspection report 2017) which categorises playgrounds, giving each one a ‘quality score’:

Score 9 – 10	Excellent
Score 8 – 9	Very Good
Score 7 – 8	Good
Score 6 – 7	Fairly Good
Score 5 – 6	Sufficient
Score 4 – 5	Fair
Score 3 – 4	Insufficient
Score 2 – 3	Poor
Score 1 – 2	Very Poor
Score 0 – 1	Extremely Poor

- 3.3 Following the independent inspection assessments of all 97 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed that the sites listed in Table 1 above are refurbished under this year’s Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme.
- 3.4 The playgrounds recommended for refurbishment are the ones with the lowest overall quality scores (Appendix 3 is available on modern.gov – 2017 Mean Quality Score ratings). As a result of the proposed refurbishment works, these playgrounds will move from ‘Fair’ to the higher classifications of ‘Very Good - Excellent’ (quality score 9.0 – 10.0) when reinspected.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that Twinbrook/Brook Activity playground will be rebuilt and moved to a new location close to the existing site as part of the Leisure Transformation programme.
- 3.6 Ardoyne community centre playground whilst list as 6.3 was refurbished after the 2017 Independent inspection visit therefore will score 9/10 in the next inspection report.

Avoniel playground will be closed as a new playground has been constructed in Flora Street Walk way, as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project.

- 3.7 Members are also asked to note that a new playground has recently been constructed at Blacks Road.

Work on a new facility at Poleglass is due to commence in August 2017, which was originally scheduled under the 2016/17 Improvement Programme however works had been delayed until the satisfactory resolution of land transfer.

- 3.8 Key Issues

- 3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

Refurbishment work at existing Belfast City Council sites will be funded through the Capital Programme and a budget of £580,000 has been allocated to this.

Staff from the Landscape, Planning and Development unit will continue to deliver and project manage the Playground Improvement Programme. As in previous years, Community Park Managers and Outreach officers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to members of the local communities.

- 3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The process proposed in this report will be subject to the Council's existing equality screening process."

A Member raised a query in respect of the play equipment at Willowbank Park and the Assistant Director explained the scoring process and undertook to forward the inspection report for this park directly to the Member.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out under section 2.1.

Crumlin Star re: Strangford Avenue

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a situation report regarding a request from Crumlin Star FC to the Council to provide them with a 'home ground'.

- 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the ongoing work in relation to the Urban Villages Programme in relation to Marrowbone Millennium Park
2. Note the ongoing discussions relating to the use of the pitch at Cliftonville as an interim measure;
3. Agree that in the context of 1 and 2 above in the absence of investment from the Club at this time that the proposal to develop Strangford Avenue is no longer an option ; and
4. Note the ongoing work in relation to the pitch at Upper Waterworks;

3.0 Main report

The Context

- 3.1 By way of context, Members are asked to note that Council does not directly provide 'home grounds' for sports clubs. There are however 2 ways in which clubs have been able to meet the requirements of the Northern Amateur League to enter into the higher leagues.
- 3.2 Firstly, in the past, as Members will be aware, the Council entered into Facilities Management Agreements and more recently through Partner Agreements with sports clubs and organisations. These agreements have been secured through publicly advertised expressions of interest. Successful applicants have used this process to provide preferential use of pitches for clubs and have through the erection of signage displayed the impression that these facilities are the home of specific clubs. This ability to manage the allocation process has led to a number of clubs being able to demonstrate control of the site in order to satisfy the requirements of the IFA for entry into the higher levels of the Northern Amateur League.
- 3.3 The second way in which clubs have secured use of facilities is by bringing investment to the asset, such as the Ulster Council of the GAA, Clarendon development Association, Suffolk FC etc. Depending on the source of the funding it is usual for terms and conditions to be attached to the funding / investment. Normally one of the requirements will be to have security of tenure, i.e. the funding body will seek to ensure that the funding will be used for the purpose for which it was intended and will seek to ensure that the applicant (recipient of the funding) will secure the benefit of the funding. Therefore sports clubs have sought to secure funding from a variety of sources and have used this to upgrade Council facilities and in return they have sought security of tenure which effectively enables them to secure use of the pitch for

their own use and meet the requirements of the IFA for entry to higher levels of the Northern Amateur League.

Crumlin Star

- 3.4 Crumlin Star has approached the Council seeking preferential use of a number of facilities. In seeking preferential use, the club wishes to satisfy the requirements of the IFA, not to gain entry to the higher leagues but to be able to play their home games within their home city. Crumlin Star First Team currently play their home matches in Larne, although they can use Belfast based facilities for training.
- 3.5 Members are to note that should the Council grant the request to provide preferential use to Crumlin Star it would be inconsistent with the approach to date which has been to do so within the context of:
- Seeking expressions of interest for specified sites; or
 - On foot of investment to improve or upgrade facilities.
- 3.6 This would set a precedent for similar requests and while it is acknowledged that Crumlin Star is a successful team, this would not form a basis for offering preferential use.
- 3.7 At this time Crumlin Star is unable to meet either of these criteria. Officers are currently engaged with 3 other Clubs all of whom are seeking preferential use of pitches and all of whom have been advised that we are not in a position to meet the requests for the above reasons.
- 3.8 In relation to Crumlin Star Council Officers are currently exploring 4 possible options which would enable the Club to play its home matches in Belfast.
1. Marrowbone Millennium Park
 2. Use of the pitch at Upper Waterworks (adjacent to Westland Gardens);
 3. Cliftonville Playing Fields and
 4. Strangford Avenue Playing Fields.

Marrowbone Millennium Park – Urban villages Programme

- 3.9 Members will be aware that the Council in partnership with Sport NI and the former Department for Social Development funded the development of a 3G pitch at Marrowbone. Members may also recall that the former Parks and Leisure Committee had agreed to relocate the 2 room temporary

changing pavilion from Cliftonville Playing Fields to Marrowbone. Crumlin Star do use the facilities but they do not meet the ground criteria to permit the Club to use the facilities for competitive matches.

- 3.10 Council has agreed to act as the delivery agent for the Urban Villages Programme. This programme has designated a number of areas across the city as Urban Villages and on foot of this designation these areas will be eligible for capital and revenue support to regenerate them and encourage shared use. One of the locations is Ardoyne and within this context Marrowbone Millennium Park. It is proposed that this small linear park receives funding and discussions to date have highlighted the importance of the pitch for sports clubs in the area. While still subject to consultation, one of the options being presented is to include a pitch extension and a new modern changing pavilion to support the 3G pitch. This pitch will be targeted at soccer clubs, owing to site constraints and this option would provide a permanent solution for clubs such as Crumlin Star, who are based in North Belfast.
- 3.11 This development is likely to mean that the pitch will be unavailable for use for approximately 2 playing seasons to allow for consultation, due diligence on the part of the funder; design, planning consent, the tender process and the physical works. Therefore consideration has been given to alternative interim arrangements that can as a priority provide for the first team's league fixture needs in their local area and further consider how we address the displacement of other teams who currently use this site.

Upper Waterworks

- 3.12 Members are reminded that this has been discussed at Committee on a number of occasions and that a mediation process is currently in progress to seek a resolution to the issue of use. A separate report will be brought to Committee upon completion of the mediation process.

Strangford Avenue Playing Fields

- 3.12 Members will recall that this request was first considered by the Committee at its meeting in October 2016 and has been discussed at subsequent meetings.
- 3.13 To summarise, Crumlin Star FC is seeking preferential use of Pitch 3 and the adjacent changing pavilion which would be in line with a sports development plan. The Club further requested that the Council investigate the possibility of

bringing Pitch 3 and the associated pavilion up to Intermediate League Standard which would enable the Club to play its home games at Strangford Avenue. The Club further proposed that the Council will remain responsible for the maintenance of the pitch and that they would pay for use of the facility.

3.15 There are a number of issues associated with this proposal:

The Council has not offered this facility to other clubs who may be interested in securing a 'home ground';

The Club has not sought to improve or upgrade the facility through securing funding which would require security of tenure to be afforded to the Club;

3.16 In addition:

1. The pitch is already well used and should the Council agree to the proposal it would be necessary to displace existing users and find alternative facilities;
2. The facility is well used by local residents and the erection of a fence measuring approximately 100m long by 64m wide (to allow circulation space for spectators) in the middle of the facility would restrict usage; Members will also be aware of recent press coverage (South Belfast News and Belfast Telegraph) outlining local opposition to the proposal; it would be necessary to consult with other park users regarding the proposal;
3. Planning consent would be required in relation to the erection of the fencing;
4. The IFA is currently reviewing the ground criteria which governs entry to the higher leagues within the Northern Amateur League;
5. The cost of the work would be in the region of £50,000 based on estimate from the Fencing MTC; the small works and civil engineering MTC and the provider of dug outs.

3.17 Following the meeting in October 2016 Council Officers met with representatives from the IFA to review the suitability of the facilities. A number of requirements were identified including the dug outs and the fencing; a space for spectators to circulate is required and council would be required to make reasonable provision for those with a disability by providing at least one of the pitch with a bitmac path to facilitate access.

- 3.18 A further report was considered at the January meeting, this report recommended that consideration be deferred until the IFA had completed its review of the grounds criteria. The IFA has been invited to attend a future meeting of the committee but to date no response has been received.
- 3.19 A further report in March 2017 provided a breakdown of the costs.

Cliftonville Playing Fields

- 3.20 Members will be aware that the council has recently completed a major development at Cliftonville Playing Fields by providing a 3G artificial turf pitch and associated floodlighting and changing. This site is one of 4 which received some additional funding from the Ulster council of the GAA. On foot of that £1m investment across 4 site, the Council has agreed to a preferential use agreement with the Ulster council. This agreement essentially enables the Ulster council, in consultation with its constituent Clubs to book the facility in line with an annual programme of use. Where the facility is not booked as part of the programme it is available for use by other users. While the pitch is currently used primarily by GAA clubs, it is not exclusively for use of GAA clubs.
- 3.21 Council Officers have met with representatives from the IFA Grounds Criteria team and the facility would require some minor physical works to the facility including dug outs and a barrier to segregate players and officials from spectators. The cost of this would be in the region of £10,000 which can be accommodated within existing maintenance budgets.
- 3.22 Members will be aware that there is an existing legal agreement with the Ulster Council GAA which provides them with preferential use of the facility via a sports development programme. Initial discussions with the Clubs delivering the programme have provided agreement in principle to use by Crumlin Star and discussions are continuing regarding the detail of implementation around the programming.
- 3.23 If agreement can be reached it will be necessary to submit a formal proposal to the IFA for approval. Officers have agreed to provide if required a letter to the IFA to seek additional time to conclude the discussions.
- 3.24 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There no financial implications at this time.

3.25 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There has been no equality impact.”

Several Members highlighted the valuable work of Crumlin Star Football within its local community and also its success as a team and stated that they felt that it would be premature, at this stage in the process, to rule out Strangford Avenue Playing Fields as a viable option for Crumlin Star.

Other Members advised that they had been contacted by a significant number of local residents stating their opposition to the proposal on the grounds of the increased traffic and disruption that they felt a ‘home pitch’ would create and stated that if the suggestion was ever to reach consultation stage there was likely to be huge local opposition.

Following a query from a Member regarding the lack of input from the Irish Football Association (IFA), the Democratic Services Officer advised that the IFA had, on two occasions, been invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee and they had yet to acknowledge the invite. The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that he had, at a recent meeting, raised this matter with representatives from the IFA and he was hopeful that a meeting would be agreed and scheduled in the near future.

Following a further query regarding the investment that had recently been agreed for Clarendon Playing Fields, the Assistant Director reiterated that this mini pitch investment had been progressing through the capital programme since 2014 and she also highlighted that the Clarendon Development Association had undertaken significant maintenance and investment in order to bring the facility up to Intermediate Standard.

A Member advised that the Council owned a significant number of football pitches and stated that, whilst he acknowledged that Crumlin Star was a successful team, it would not be appropriate for the Council to grant them a request for preferential use as it would set a precedent for similar requests from other football clubs. He requested that a list of the Council owned pitches, for information purposes, be submitted to a future meeting.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was:

Moved by Councillor Lyons; and
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers:

That the Committee agrees to accept the recommendations contained within the report.

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

Partner Agreement Update - Quarterly Update

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven playing field sites and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for January - March 2017.

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and she advised that so far the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites. She drew the Members' attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by the partners up to the end of March 2017 and highlighted that, in the initial year of transition from the Facility Management Agreements, there was evidence of growth in the level of diverse use and extensive partnership working.

The Assistant Director advised that Full Quarter 4 payments and 80% of quarter 1 2017-18 payments had been made at 6 of the 7 sites. Payment of the final 20% of the Quarter 4 and 80% for Quarter 1 2017-18 had not been made to the partner at the Alderman Thomas Patton Memorial Park as the club had raised queries in respect of bills for pitch usage, which needed to be resolved prior to payment.

A Member asked that the staff be thanked for their hard work and commitment in helping to address ongoing issues at some of the locations.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Milltown Land Licence Agreement

The Assistant Director outlined the details of a request from the City and Neighbourhood Services Department seeking permission to obtain a licence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to build a community garden at Alnacreeva Close, Milltown.

The officer advised that the need for a community garden had been demonstrated through a recent community survey carried out by residents as part of the locality planning process for the area. The Committee noted that it was proposed that the community garden would have 17 raised beds which would be made available for communal use. In addition, officers would assist and support the Milltown Residents Association in submitting an Alpha funding application to cover the cost of building the garden and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department would also support the community with training to develop and sustain the community garden.

The Committee was advised that the cost of the community garden would be £31,400.00, 10% of which would be covered through existing departmental budgets with the remainder being sought from Alpha Funding by the Community Association.

The Committee:

- agreed that it would request a licence from the NIHE to build a community garden at Altnacreeva Close, Milltown; and
- approved the construction of a community garden at this location.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting - Quarter 4 2016/17

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services presented the financial position of the People and Communities Committee for Quarter 4, which confirmed an under spend of £694k for that period. This represented 0.9% of the budget which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee was advised that the current under spends related to vacant posts across a number of services and the receipt of additional income from grants and growth.

He reminded the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had, at its meeting held on 18th November, 2016, agreed to cap in year departmental cash limits at the Quarter 2 forecast levels to offset the rates clawback advised by the Land and Property Services Agency and the Committee was therefore not in a position to re-allocate any of the departmental underspend.

A Member congratulated officers on the achieved underspend and the Committee noted the year-end financial position.

Everybody Active 2020

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To seek permission to accept an offer of funding from Sport NI’s investment programme called Everybody Active 2020. An indicative amount of approximately £125,000 has been suggested for Strand 4. This will allow Council to offer small grants in Belfast to support the existing Everybody Active participation programme currently being delivered by our range of preferred partners.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to accept the financial offer and permit officers to develop and run a programme of small grants in support of the Everybody Active 2020 Strand 4 programme to 31 March 2020, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Sport NI programme

Sport NI has commissioned Belfast City Council, along with the other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Every Body Active 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions. Specific targets for each of the Strands of the Programme will be confirmed by Sport NI.

3.2 Sport NI have recently indicated that they will offer Belfast City Council around £125,000 under Everybody Active 2020 Strand 4 – small grants programme. This programme will allow Council to enhance the sustainability of participation alongside the existing Everybody Active Opportunities Programme which has been developed to support the objectives of the Belfast Agenda. Our existing Everybody Active programme has specific targets which identify women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need as priority. Participation evidence highlights disparities and inequalities within those sectors. We have commissioned a blend of providers through a public process who are successfully developing and delivering programmes which prioritise participation for our target groups.

3.3 Design of Belfast’s Strand 4 programme will ensure complementary benefits linked to other investments including Belfast City Council’s existing Support for Sport small grants, EBA 2020 Strand 2 Workforce Development and Peace IV to improve the outcomes from EBA 2020. It is envisaged that the scheme will prioritise support to groups which can deliver programmes in support of our prioritised Everybody Active 2020 programmes as listed below.

<u>Partner Organisation</u>	<u>Main Target Group</u>
Ulster Rugby-Disability Participation	Disability
Ulster Rugby-Female Participation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need - Disability
Irish Football Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls - Disability Inclusion
Ulster Squash	Women and Girls
Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need - Disability Inclusion
Disability Sport Northern Ireland (North and West)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport Northern Ireland (South and East)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need

Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport NI- Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability - Areas of High Social Need

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

Sport NI has indicated that it will make a confirmed offer in the near future and that an approximate budget of £125,000 per financial year will be available for delivery of EBA 2020 strand 4 in Belfast. Sport NI have indicated that an amount totalling 10% of the total costs will be available to support delivering the programme. It is proposed that a temporary part-time Sports Development assistant role would be created in support of existing Sports Development resources to ensure the successful delivery.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The programme is an opportunity for the Council to deliver against its equality and good relations objectives. These would be integrated into the performance frameworks for provider.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Financial Provision Assurance statement to NIEA for Waste Management Activities in Northern Ireland

(Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management, 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 highlight the NIEA *Financial Provision Policy for Waste Management Activities in Northern Ireland*.

1.02 To ensure that Belfast City Council has sufficient, secure and available resources to address the environmental and human health impacts of its waste management activities at the following sites:

- Agnes Street Civic Amenity Site
- Alexandra Park Household Recycling Centre
- Blackstaff Household Recycling Centre
- Cregagh Road Civic Amenity Site
- Dargan Road Waste Transfer Station
- Palmerston Household Recycling Centre
- Park Road Household Recycling Centre
- Springfield Civic Amenity Sites

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Provide assurance to the NIEA that the Council has sufficient funds available to address any potential environmental or human health impacts arising from its waste management activities.
- Proceed with preparing a Local Authority Deed Agreement to cover an aggregated financial provision of £195,000 for any potential impacts arising from our waste management activities. The Financial Provision Calculations for Belfast City Council Waste Sites is available on modern.gov.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The aim of the (NIEA) Financial Provision Policy is to ensure that holders of licences and permits in Northern Ireland have sufficient, secure and available resources to address the environmental and human health impacts of their waste activities.

3.2 Financial provision for non-landfill activities is required under the Waste and Contaminated Land Order (NI) 1997 and the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (NI) 2013. Activities covered include waste treatment and transfer sites subject to waste management licensing and waste treatment sites regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations.

- 3.3 The amount of financial provision is based on the maximum permitted quantity of waste that, an operator can store on the site at any one time, under the terms of their licence / permit.
- 3.4 Non landfill activities must apply a simple indicative formula based on the appropriate management of waste tonnages and restoration/remediation costs, to calculate the amount of financial provision.
- 3.5 Operators are required to determine the financial provision amount for each site. Sites which have a financial provision of £10,000 or more, will be deemed to be higher risk.
- 3.6 Based on the NIEA recommendations, the four Household Recycling Centres and the Waste Transfer Station are deemed to be higher risk sites than the three Civic Amenity Sites.
- 3.7 NIEA require waste operators to review and submit their financial provision at least annually. Where an operator applies to modify or vary a licence, financial provision must be reassessed (and agreed by the NIEA) by the applicant at that time.
- 3.8 To demonstrate financial standing, NIEA require evidence from waste operators that they have sufficient funds available. Depending on the financial provision determined, one of a number of options can be provided – for example for lower risk sites, this could be a credit reference check, a statement of accounts or a Parent Company Guarantee. For higher risk sites, this could be Bonds or Escrows.
- 3.9 For public sector sites, evidence may be provided by showing that the costs of operation and, if required, financial provision amount, will be funded out of a named, dedicated budget, indicating the allocation of funds. A Local Authority Deed Agreement may be considered where a local authority is: carrying out its own waste activities; can substantiate the financial provision to be appropriate and; that the monies are readily accessible.
- 3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Based on the NIEA indicative formula, the aggregated financial provision for the Council's waste sites (covering 4 household recycling centres, 3 civic amenity sites and the waste transfer

station at Dargan) amounts to approximately £195,000. This sum has been included within the relevant budget. On a site-by-site basis, the £195,000 can be broken down as follows:

Waste Management Site	Financial Provision
Agnes Street Civic Amenity Site	£4,555
Alexandra Park Household Recycling Centre	£14,550
Blackstaff Household Recycling Centre	£14,450
Cregagh Road Civic Amenity Site	£6,311
Dargan Road Waste Transfer Station	£121,772
Palmerston Household Recycling Centre	£14,509
Park Road Household Recycling Centre	£14,450
Springfield Civic Amenity Sites	£4,170
Total	£194,767

Table 1: Summary of Financial Provisions for Council Waste Management Sites.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Service Level Agreement - Drinking Water Inspectorate for NI and Belfast City Council (Private Water Supplies)

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that in Northern Ireland drinking water supplies were either provided through the public water supply or via private supplies. Northern Ireland Water Ltd (NI Water) supplied water to over 99% of the Northern Ireland population, with the remainder being served by private water supplies.

The Committee was advised that the quality of drinking water at private water supplies in Northern Ireland was monitored under the Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended). It was noted that the statutory body responsible for the monitoring and enforcement regimes under these regulations was the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). The DWI was a business unit within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), part of the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs.

The officer advised that in implementing the requirements under the regulations the Inspectorate had to work closely with the Environment Health Departments, which carried out sampling at private water supplies, and also liaise with owners/users of these supplies during the investigation of exceedances of water quality standards.

The Committee noted that the Inspectorate had an arrangement with the Environmental Health Service to undertake sampling at private water supplies on its behalf. This agreement outlined the arrangements between the DWI and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department for Belfast City Council, appointed as a competent person, for the purposes of undertaking on behalf of the DWI risk assessments and sampling of water supplies under the Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended). The officer explained that the Service Level Agreement defined each party's role, responsibilities and obligations and that it would also enable the DWI to individually authorise the Council to carry out duties on its behalf. This agreement would be for a period of 2 years and then bi-annually, subject to a review process.

The Committee endorsed the draft Service Level Agreement, available on the Council's website [here](#), and authorised the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to sign the agreement on the Council's behalf.

Operational Issues

Donation - Installation of Defibrillators

The Committee was reminded that the Council had been undertaking a public access defibrillator pilot programme. It noted that, as part of the programme, defibrillators had already been installed in six Parks in May 2016. In addition, the Committee, at its meeting on 7th February, had agreed to a second phase of installation across a further nine sites.

The Assistant Director advised that the Council had recently received a request from the family of the late Mr. Mark Murphy, seeking permission to make a donation of money raised in his memory to be used for the installation of defibrillators in public accessed playing fields and parks. The officer advised that they wished to donate £5,408.00 which would cover the cost of eight defibrillators. The officer detailed that the Murphy family had requested that, if possible, that one of the defibrillators would be installed in the Cherryvale Playing Fields as it was located close to the family home and was used extensively by many of the people who had supported the fundraising efforts. In addition, the family had also indicated that they would be pleased if the other defibrillators could be geographically spread over the City. The officer advised that they had suggested the Ormeau Park as a possible location. Whilst they recognised that there was one already located at the Ozone, they felt that given the size and usage of the park that it would be beneficial if another could be located near the Park Road/Ormeau Road junction. The Committee noted that the family had also mentioned that, as they were originally from the North Road area in East Belfast, they would appreciate if a defibrillator was to be located in that general area but had stressed that they were content to be guided by the Council as to where the need was greatest.

The Committee noted that it was a significant achievement for the family to raise this sum of money and welcomed the fact that this would enable the Council to proceed to the third phase of this pilot programme. During discussion the Assistant Director confirmed that a plaque would be erected at the location of the defibrillator. Several Members stated that they felt it would be appropriate to acknowledge the generous donation by inviting family representatives to a small reception, in addition, they agreed with the family's views that the other locations should be geographically spread across the City.

The Committee:

- gratefully accepted a donation of £5,408.00 for the installation of eight defibrillators in public accessed playing fields and parks and agreed that one of them would be located in Cherryvale Playing Fields;
- agreed to accede to the family's other location suggestions, if officers felt that these would make suitable locations; and
- agreed that the Chairperson would invite representatives from the family to a small reception, which would be held immediately prior to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee, and to which all Members of the Committee would be invited.

Sharp Finds - Update Report

The Committee noted that there was increasing concern about the inappropriate disposal of sharps and drug paraphernalia associated with intravenous drug use in the City. Obviously this was exacerbated when such items were found in public spaces.

The Members were advised that the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) had been leading on a partnership response which was aimed at dealing with the inappropriate disposal of such material. She explained that it led a multiagency Sharp Management Group which was comprised of experts from various support services across the City, along with representatives from other statutory agencies. This group had agreed a range of short and medium term actions which were aimed at raising awareness around the issues. The officer then detailed the actions, as follows:

- training and awareness for local businesses in the event of finding sharps;
- sharps removal contract – a dedicated telephone number for members of the public to report the discovery of drug related sharps;
- sharps disposal units – specifically designed sharps disposal units had been placed in the Automatic Public Conveniences (APCs): Dublin Road; Lombard Street; Antrim Road, Custom House Square and the Gas Works. It was noted further that the Council had also installed a unit at the Council owned Winetavern and were investigating other opportunities to expand the scheme;
- guidance for Council employees;
- accurate recording of data; and
- enabling Council staff – all Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Park Wardens carry sharp bins in the Council vehicles.

The Committee noted that the future work for the Sharp Management Group included raising awareness of the problem, the accurate recording and timeliness of sharing reports and information across the agencies to enable resources to be targeted quicker and work with the hostels in Belfast to enable them to better support vulnerable people in their care around drug use and the safe disposal of injecting equipment.

The Committee welcomed the update report and agreed to further support the current and planned work of the multi-agency Sharps Management Group.

Update on Changing Places Facilities

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

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th April, it had requested further information in respect of the provision of Changing Places in the City. By way of background information, the Head of Waste Management detailed that Changing Places were facilities provided where people with multiple disabilities could avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities which had been designed specifically for their needs.

He then proceeded to outline the current provision of the facilities throughout the City, as follows:

- Girdwood Community Hub (North Belfast);
- George Best Belfast City Airport (East Belfast);
- Mencap Centre (Newtownbreda – South Belfast);
- Northern Ireland Assembly (East Belfast);
- Divis and Black Mountain (West Belfast); and
- Olympia Leisure Centre (South Belfast).

The officer advised that the Changing Places Toilet Map was available on the internet [here](#), which contained further information in respect of the above facilities.

He reported that there were proposals to install 2 additional facilities at the redeveloped Robinson and Andersonstown Leisure Centres.

Following a query from a Member regarding the provision of facilities within the City Hall, the Assistant Director confirmed that there was a proposal to consider a Changing Places Facility within the building. The proposal was currently an uncommitted project of the Council's Capital Projects process. She stated that, as the City Hall was a listed building, the proposal was obviously more complex, and in addition to this, there was also the problem of limited space.

Several of the Members highlighted the inadequate Changing Places facilities provided within the City Centre where people with multiple disabilities could avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities which had been designed specifically for their needs. It was noted that it was an issue that needed to be addressed urgently given the numbers of people visiting the City.

The Committee noted the report.

Food Service Delivery Plan 2017 - 18

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the principal aspects of the Food Service Delivery Plan for 2017-2018, which set out the activities, techniques and approaches to be taken during the year to support businesses in ensuring food safety and to promote informed healthy choices. He explained that the Plan provided the basis on which the Council's regulatory activities would be monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency.

The Members noted that, from October this year, the Food Hygiene Rating Act (NI) 2016 would require businesses to display their food hygiene rating.

The Committee approved the Food Service Delivery Plan 2017-2018, a copy of which was available on the internet [here](#).

Update Report on the Anti - Litter Campaign

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Service provided the Committee with a brief update in respect of the evaluation of the anti-litter awareness campaign. He reminded the Committee that the campaign had been developed as part of the Brighter Belfast Initiative and had been ongoing since 2004.

The Director reported that the most recent research in February 2017, had found a considerable positive change to people's littering behaviour, with 27% of people admitting to having littered in the past 6 months, which showed a 15% point improvement in behaviour since the last survey 2 years ago, when 42% of people had admitted to littering. He continued that overall reported littering in Belfast City was at its lowest level since the inception of the campaign and with behavioural change being notoriously difficult to achieve this was very encouraging.

He proceeded to detail to the Committee other key findings of the research and stated that it was important that the Council continued to build on the success and momentum that had been established with both the campaign and education and outreach programmes to sustain the change in behaviour

The Committee noted the report.

Belfast Model Flying Club - Blanchflower

The Committee was advised that the application by the Belfast Air Model Club to host the 2019 European Championships for Control Line Model Aircraft, at the Blanchflower Park, had been unsuccessful and the event would be held in Gran Canaria.

Pride of Place Awards 2017

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the purpose of the Pride of Place competition, which recognised and celebrated community partnerships' contribution to society. The Council had supported the competition for the past seven years and entry was by Council nomination.

He explained that the Council's Community Service Officers had taken the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups and had proposed the following nominations for the 2017 Pride of Place competition:-

- Lower Oldpark Community Association (in the under 1,000 population category);
- The Hanwood Trust Company Limited (in the over 2,000 category);
- College Park Avenue Residents Association (in the Community Environmental Initiative);
- Upper Springfield Youth Team (in the Community Based Youth Initiative).

Accordingly, the Committee approved:

- the entry and associated costs of the four proposed groups to the Pride of Place Awards 2017, taking place in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 2nd December;
- the accommodation allowance for the Judges' Assessment Visit to Belfast in August; and
- the attendance of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services (or their nominees) and the Project Officer, together with a maximum of two persons per external project, at the awards ceremony and approved the associated costs.

Glasgow International Rose Trails

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, together with the Assistant Director (or their nominees), to attend the following event:

- the Glasgow Rose Trials on 24th – 25th August.

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium management's Annual Learning Convention and Exhibition (ICCM)

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, together with the Assistant Director (or their nominees), to attend:

- the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Learning Convention and Exhibition, in Oxfordshire, from 25th – 27th September;
- It was agreed further, given its portfolio of work, that the Members of the Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group would also be authorised to attend.

**Consultation on Draft Revised UK Air Quality Plan
for Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 On 20th February 2014, the European Commission launched legal proceedings against the UK for its failure to meet Limit Values for NO₂. Although the original deadline for meeting the limit values was 1st January 2010, extensions were agreed with Member States, which had a credible and workable plan for meeting air quality standards within five years of the original deadline, i.e. by January 2015. The 2015 Plan was withdrawn after it was deemed too optimistic in its modelling of future nitrogen dioxide emissions by the High Court following a challenge by ClientEarth. The UK High Court Judge ruled that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England (Defra) had taken ‘minimum’ steps to achieve compliance with EU-set limits on NO₂ by 2020.

1.2 The UK has now completed a draft revised air quality plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide to be submitted to the European Commission. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England, the Department for Transport, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland have written to relevant organisations inviting their views on the draft document. This consultation seeks views on the key elements from this plan and the UK’s approach for meeting NO₂ limit values.

1.3 The consultation on the draft document closes on 15th June 2017 and the Government are seeking to publish the final plan by July 2017. A copy of the consultation documentation can be accessed via <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/air-quality-plan-for-tackling-nitrogen-dioxide>

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- endorse the draft response and note that the deadline for receipt of this consultation by Defra is 15 June 2017. Accordingly, it is proposed to submit this response to Defra subject to council approval at its meeting on 3 July 2017.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 The Draft UK Plan acknowledges that the problem of NO₂ is specific to local areas and that key actions need to be developed and implemented locally. The UK Government will also take steps at national level to enable and support local progress. Specific to Northern Ireland, it is proposed that the NI Executive will improve air quality and increase sustainable transport through the following measures:

- Revising Northern Ireland's air quality policy and legislation;
- Devise an Air Quality Action Plan with a range of actions.

3.2 The Council's draft consultation response includes the following main points to be considered for Northern Ireland and Belfast.

- We would recommend that Northern Ireland specific Air Quality Strategy (update to air quality policy and legislation) and Action Plan documents are developed and brought forward as soon as practicable by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Full engagement with councils and other relevant organisations should be sought throughout the process.
- Future documents should have a clear focus on both regional and local issues.
- From 2015, the Department has imposed cuts on councils to the overall budget allocated to air quality management. The draft response highlights the need to ensure funding allocated to councils remains sufficient to allow them to plan for and carry out all current and future legislative duties placed upon them.
- The response places an emphasis on the need for continuation of good quality monitoring data rather than relying solely upon modelling for predictions. Monitoring confirms actual ambient concentrations allowing measures to be prioritised and to have quantifiable direct air quality benefits.
- We recommend that any future Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy should consider not only actions to meet legal limits but also the link between air quality improvements and long term wider benefits to human health and the Public Health Service. While legal limits (EU Limits and UK Objectives) are in place to protect human health, continued reductions in background

concentrations of air quality should be an important target for any future strategy. A Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy should consider not only actions to meet legal limits, but also include assessment and quantification of how wider air quality improvements can benefit public health. This should include research in the relationship between air quality and public health, to establish if a reduction in air pollution will have long-term health benefits and potential savings to the Northern Ireland Health Service.

3.3 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial implications to the Council associated with delivery of the UK Air Quality Plan. Resource implications may be incurred by officer time supporting the Department with development of the NI actions. Provisions are accounted for within existing budget estimates relative to staff time.

3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the delivery of the Plan.”

The Committee endorsed the Council's response, available on the Council's website [here](#), to the DEFRA draft revised UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide. It was noted that the consultation closed on 16th June and it was agreed that the response would be submitted with the proviso that it would be subject to ratification by the Council.

Request for the use of Dundonald Cemetery

The Assistant Director reported that a request had been received from the Dundonald Apprentice Boys of Derry seeking permission to use Dundonald Cemetery to conduct a wreath laying ceremony on 29th June from 7.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request.

Street Naming

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Emma Court, off Albert Street, BT12.

Chairperson