

# People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 6th November, 2018

## MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Baker, Canavan, Corr, Heading, Lyons,  
Magee, Magennis, McCusker, McReynolds, Newton and  
O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Copeland and McCoubrey and Councillors McAllister and Pankhurst.

### Minutes

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

### Declarations of Interest

### Meetings Schedule 2019

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the People and Communities Committee between January and April, 2019:

- Tuesday, 8th January;
- Monday, 21st January - Special Meeting (To hear presentations);
- Tuesday, 5th February - Special Meeting (Housing Issues, to which all Members are invited);
- Tuesday, 12th February;
- Tuesday, 5th March;
- March 2019 - Special Meeting (To hear presentations, date to be confirmed with the Chairperson); and
- Tuesday, 2nd April.

All meetings would commence at 4.30 p.m.

### **Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

#### **Household Recycling**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 1st November, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds and seconded by Councillor Long, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

*“This Council is committed to increasing household recycling across the city of Belfast; notes the colossal impact waste is having on our oceans, cities and countrysides; welcomes the recent waste consultation; and will commit to introducing glass recycling in households across the city of Belfast as soon as possible.”*

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would take into consideration any statistical information available in respect of recycling.

#### **Restricted Items**

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

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

#### **Events at Ormeau Park to Host Belsonic Concerts**

The Committee granted authority for Belsonic to hold a maximum of ten concerts at Ormeau Park in June of each year for a three year period (2019 – 2021), subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.

The Committee also granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee annually for the use of Ormeau Park taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area and the potential wider benefit to the City economy; and

- to write to the promoters of Belsonic to advise that the Council reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into annual legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

The Committee further agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting (before the Local Government Election in May) which would outline the options for the possible inclusion of a type of 'social clause' in the legal agreements between the Council and all event promoters for events taking place on Council land.

#### **Request for the use of Botanic Gardens**

The Committee granted authority to Aiken Promotions for the use and hire of the facilities at Botanic Gardens from 3rd June to 5th July 2019, which would include set up and take down, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.

The Committee also granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area and taking into consideration the potential wider benefit to the City economy;
- to write to the promoters and advise that the Council reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

The Committee agreed that future reports would include detail in respect of any previous working experience that the Council had with the Event Management Company/Organiser making the request.

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

The Committee granted authority to UK Live Ltd for the use and hire of the facilities at Boucher Road Playing Fields for a two day music festival "Lets Rock Belfast" on 3rd and 4th August, 2019, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.

The Committee also granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of Boucher Road Playing Fields taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy; and
- to write to the promoters and advise that the Council reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

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

#### **Combined Report**

- i. **Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd**
- ii. **Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens**
- iii. **Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen's Cabin at the Waterworks**
- iv. **Proposed Community Art Project at Falls Park Pavilion**
- v. **Building Successful Communities – Westlink Divis Back Path**
- vi. **Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities**

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 seek approval from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

##### **2.1**

- i) **Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd**  
**Members are asked to agree to recommend to the SP&R Committee that the Council gift the buoys at Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter Ltd.**

2.2

ii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens

It is recommended that Members approve the grant of a licence to St Michael's Boxing Club to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens subject to the Boxing Club supplying the container and approval by SP&R.

2.3

iii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen's Cabin at Waterworks

It is recommended that Members approve the grant of a licence to Families at the Waterworks for the purpose of additional storage to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the fishermen's cabin subject to the Families at Waterworks supplying the container and approval by SP&R.

2.4

iv) Proposed Community Art Project at Falls Park Pavilion

It is recommended that Council supports a John Muir 'Explorer' Award programme working with young people from St Gall's GAA Club in West Belfast. The aim of the programme is to reconnect participants with the surrounding countryside, to get outdoors and explore the Belfast Hills and our parks, as well as learning about biodiversity, conservation and their place in local environment. As part of this programme young people will create a symbolic piece of public art, to artistically represent their journey, as well as conveying a strong environmental message to their local community. The location for the decorative art piece is on the side of the community sports space in Falls Park, which is owned by Council.

2.5

v) Building Successful Communities – Westlink Divis Back Path

It is recommended that Members consider the report and agree in principle to the proposal from community representatives to enter into a bespoke management arrangement to protect and optimise the proposed regeneration project at Westlink Divis Back Path; this will primarily take the form of a key holding agreement to control access to the facility to support the development of a programme of use for both organised groups and clubs as well as casual use.

2.6

vi) Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities

The Committee is asked to note the update in respect of the transfer of assets and liabilities for the Urban Village and Building Successful Communities projects and grant approval to the Council taking licences from the relevant landowner i.e Department for Communities (DFC)/NIHE for the new park in Colin, Springfield Dam, Glenbryn and Brittanic Terrace in the Sandy Row to allow the Council's contractor to carry out the redevelopment of these sites which is being funded by Urban Villages and DFC

3.0 Main report

3.1

i) Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd

Key Issues

At its meeting on 10th May 2016 the People and Communities Committee noted the redevelopment plans for Cathedral Gardens, as part of the wider DFC Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 public realm, and agreed to:

- a) the relocation of the three large navigation buoys currently in Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter area of the city, as suggested by the Commissioner for Irish Lights, subject to feasibility and affordability assessments; and
- b) recommend to the SP&R Committee that the Council gift the buoys to the Titanic Foundation Ltd

3.2 At its meeting on 20th May 2016 the SP&R Committee adopted the P&C Committee's recommendations and agreed to the relocation of the buoys to the Titanic Quarter and the gifting of the buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd.

3.3 While the Streets Ahead Phase 3 public realm project has stalled due to the Assembly no longer meeting, officers have continued to work with the Titanic Foundation Ltd, the Titanic Quarter Ltd and the Commissioner for Irish Lights with a view to having the buoys moved to the Titanic Quarter. The buoys were gifted to the Council by the Commissioner for Irish Lights in the early 1980's in recognition of the sea port and maritime tradition of the city.

Since the matter of relocation of the buoys was first mooted, the Commissioner's office have been supportive of the proposed relocation to Titanic Quarter given the proximity to water and the relevance of the buoys as navigation aids; links to maritime heritage of the city; and potential to maximise the impact of other efforts to promote this area of the city.

- 3.4 While the May 2016 Committee reports sought approval to transfer the buoys to Titanic Foundation Ltd it is now considered that it would be more appropriate to transfer the buoys to the Titanic Quarter Ltd as they own the land at the existing open green space along the waterfront at the rear of the SSE Arena on which the buoys will be relocated. The Titanic Foundation Ltd and Titanic Quarter Ltd are working closely with Council officers on the relocation of the buoys.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost to relocate the buoys is £140,000. The Council will provide £51,000 from the capital programme, DFC will contribute £69,000, Titanic Foundation Ltd £10,000 and Titanic Quarter Ltd £10,000.

Legal Services and Estates will write formally to Titanic Quarter Ltd offering the buoys as an outright gift and seeking TQL's acceptance to that proposal; there will be no land transfer.

3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

No specific equality or good relations implications. No specific rural needs impact.

3.7

- ii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens
- iii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen's Cabin at Waterworks

Key Issues

St Michael's Boxing Club have requested permission to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens and the Friends of the Waterworks have requested permission to site a container adjacent to the Fisherman's Hut at the Waterworks. The clubs will be responsible for achieving planning and any other statutory approvals. The provision of a boxing facility at this location will enhance the existing facilities namely the 3G pitch and pavilion, the community centre and the playground. The provision of

additional storage at the Fisherman's Cabin will enhance the programming capability of the club and increase usage of the facility.

**3.8 Financial & Resource Implications**

The Clubs will be responsible for all costs associated with the siting and ongoing use of the container and for a ground rent which will be assessed by the Estates Unit.

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

No specific equality or good relations implications.

**3.10**

**iv) Proposed Community Art Project at Falls Park Pavilion**

The council has been working with the Belfast Hills Partnership to facilitate the delivery of an eight day John Muir 'Explorer' Award programme with young people from St Gall's GAA Club in West Belfast. The aim of the programme is to reconnect participants with the surrounding countryside, to get outdoors and explore the Belfast Hills and our parks, as well as learning about biodiversity, conservation and their place in local environment.

**3.11** As part of this award, young people have to identify an opportunity to 'Share' their programme experiences with others and develop an awareness campaign. The young people involved have decided to create a symbolic piece of public art, to artistically represent their journey, as well as conveying a strong environmental message to their local community.

**3.12** The location for the decorative art piece is on the side of the community sports space in Falls Park, which is owned by Council and which is a location you can see the connection between the Falls Park and the Belfast Hills.

**3.13** The funding for the decorative art piece is being met by the Belfast Hills Partnership, including appointing an artist to help the young people bring their message to life.

**3.14 Financial & Resource Implications**

The financial costs of the decorative art piece will be met by the Belfast Hills Partnership. Outreach Officers from the Parks Service will be involved in educating, informing and challenging the participants as part of programme delivery.



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

The decorative art piece will convey a strong environmental message to the local community and there are no known equality and good relations implications or rural needs assessment.

**3.16**

**v) Building Successful Communities – Westlink Divis Back Path**

**Key Issues**

Members are reminded that at its meeting in November 2017 it received a report on the proposal to regenerate an area known as the Westlink Divis Back Path, to transform a derelict piece of land which runs adjacent to the West Link and which witnesses anti-social behaviour and criminality. Members will recall that it had previously agreed that Officers engage with the Community and other partners regarding the resourcing of the facility post completion within the context of the ongoing work into Area Planning.

**3.17** While the work on area planning remains on-going representatives from the local community around Divis have met. They welcome the investment of £770K from Department for Communities who have also agreed to cover the cost of the maintenance of the facility for a period of three years post completion, as previously agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee (SP&R) in October 2016.

**3.18** This is a site which has experienced difficulties in the past. Community representatives wish to see the investment well used and respected and wish to contribute to its success. It has therefore been suggested that a local ‘management oversight committee’ be formed comprising local elected representatives and representatives from sporting bodies in the area; namely Sinn Fein, Davitts GAC, Falls Residents Association and Immaculata Football Club This group would work, in conjunction with Officers from Council to populate the facility with casual and programmed use. They would work with BCC to open and the close the facility and enter into a key holding agreement; so for example agreement would be reached on ‘normal opening hours’ with any additional use outside of these hours being determined in line with a programme of use comprising the main sporting bodies in the area.

**3.19 The main benefits of this approach would be:**

- a) The assumption of local ownership of the asset;
- b) Deterring anti-social behaviour and criminality by encourage positive casual and programmed use;
- c) Deterring anti-social behaviour and criminality by restricting access to the asset outside of daylight hours;
- d) Providing the community with a free to use facility to encourage a healthier lifestyle through physical exercise

Members are therefore asked at this time to consider the principle as outlined and agreed to the approach as set out above.

**3.20 Financial & Resource Implications**

There will be no payment for keyholding. Programming will be required by CNS outreach officers and sports development in order to deliver community capacity building.

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

There are no implications at this time.

**3.22**

- vi) Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities

**Key Issues**

At its meeting on 21st October 2016 the SP&R Committee agreed in principle to the transfer of land and property assets from the Department for Communities, or other central government bodies as appropriate, upon completion of identified capital projects, subject to the conditions of transfer as set out in the report and specifically on agreement on revenue budgets at the time of transfer, with up to three years agreed maintenance costs being provided as a minimum, depending on the nature of the asset.

**3.23 Officers have been working in partnership with Urban Villages Initiative to:**

- a) Develop a new district park in the Colin area on vacant green space owned by DFC and NIHE. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept, public consultation has been carried out and a planning application has been submitted. A design team is currently being procured and works are due to start

early 2019, subject to funding and planning permission. The new park will be comparable in size to Victoria Park and will feature a destination play park, outdoor classroom, active plaza and running routes. Urban Villages are the sole funder and the business case for £5m funding is currently going through central government approvals. A Letter of Offer will follow which will require the Council to take ownership of the site on completion of the works and enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 25 years.

3.24

- b) Upgrade an area of DFC land at Glenbryn Park to provide a playground, path network and green space which has been designed with CNS Dept. At its meeting on 15th December 2017 the SP&R Committee approved the acquisition of the land at Glenbryn from DFC at nil value. Planning permission has been secured together with approval from DFC to transfer the land to Council at nil value. The Letter of Offer has been accepted by the Council; it requires the council to enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 10 years. Work will commence early 2019.

3.25

- c) Upgrade a play park on a site currently owned by NIHE at Brittanic Terrace, Sandy Row. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept and works are due to start on site in early 2019, subject to funding. The proposed plans include replacement of the MUGA, upgrades to both the hard and soft landscape, a new playground facility and an outdoor gym. Capital funding is to be provided by Urban Villages and DFC, and a business case for £248,508 is currently awaiting central government approval. A Letter of Offer will follow which will require the Council to enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 10 years.

3.26

- d) Upgrade the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park which is an existing Council asset. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept. Works are due to start early in 2019, subject to funding. The proposed plans include an upgraded multi-use games area with new surfacing, improved fencing and lighting. The Letter of Offer which has been accepted by the Council requires the Council to enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 10 years.

**3.27 Officers have been working in partnership with DFC to:**

- e) Upgrade the DFC owned site at Springfield Dam. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept, public consultation has been carried out and a design team have been procured. DFC are the sole funder and a letter of offer for £498,346 has been accepted by Council and subject to planning, works will commence in summer 2019. The proposed plans include new paths to provide circulation between the Dam site and Springfield Park, new recreation facilities including a modular building to facilitate nature learning, water safety training and local activity groups, fishing stands and an activity trail.

**3.28 Officers have been working in partnership with DFC Building Successful Communities to:**

- f) Regenerate the piece of wasteland known as the Backpath, which is located between the rear of Cullington Road and the Westlink, to create an Activity Park, including outdoor gym/exercise equipment, sprint track and kickaround area. BSC have allocated £770,000 for the refurbishment. The land is owned by DfI and NIHE; DFC are working with the landowners in order to secure a transfer to the Council at nil value. Planning approval has been secured and DFC, who are delivering the £770k project, hope to have a contractor on site by March 2019.

**3.29 The Council's Property and Projects Department will deliver capital projects at Colin, Glenbryn, Brittanic Terrace and Springfield Dam and upon completion the land will be transferred to Council at nil cost. As ownership of these four of the sites remains with DFC and NIHE until the projects are completed, the Council will require a licence to allow their contractor on to the sites to complete the work.**

**3.30 There will be separate licences for each of the four sites and the term of the licences will be for the period required by the contractor, all of which are expected to be in excess of 6 months.**

**3.31 Financial & Resource Implications**

**DFC have agreed to transfer the land required for these projects to the Council at nil value. NIHE are seeking to transfer the land in their ownership at the proposed new park**

in Colin and the land at Brittanic Terrace, Sandy Row to the Council at nil value but if this is not approved Urban Villages have agreed to cover the costs so either way the Council will acquire the land at nil cost.

DFC and NIHE have agreed to provide licences to allow the Council's contractor access to the sites at nil cost.

DFC and Urban Villages have agreed to cover the majority of the maintenance costs for the new park in Colin for a period of three years post completion with the deficit being absorbed from existing city and neighbourhood budgets.

CNS have agreed to absorb the maintenance costs for Glenbryn, Brittanic Terrace and the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park from within existing budgets.

DFC have agreed to cover the maintenance costs for Springfield Dam for a period of three years post completion.

DFC BSC have agreed to cover the cost of maintenance for the Westlink Divis Back path for a period of three years post completion.

DFC and NIHE have agreed to grant the licences at nil cost to the Council. Estates and Legal Services will agree terms and conditions with DFC and NIHE.

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

**No implications."**

The Committee:

- agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council gift the buoys at Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter Ltd;
- agreed to grant a licence to St Michael's Boxing Club to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens, subject to the Boxing Club supplying the container and the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- approved the grant of a licence to Families at the Waterworks for the purpose of additional storage to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the fishermen's cabin, subject to the Families at Waterworks supplying the container and the approval of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;

- agreed to support a John Muir 'Explorer' Award programme, working with young people from St Gall's GAA Club in West Belfast;
- agreed, in principle, to the proposal from community representatives to enter into a bespoke management arrangement to protect and optimise the proposed regeneration project at the Westlink Divis Back Path. This would primarily take the form of a key holding agreement to control access to the facility to support the development of a programme of use for both organised groups and clubs as well as casual use;
- granted approval for the Council to take licences from the relevant landowner, that is, Department for Communities (DFC)/Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for the new park in Colin, Springfield Dam, Glenbryn and Brittanic Terrace in Sandy Row to allow the Council's contractor to carry out the redevelopment of these sites which were being funded by Urban Villages and the DfC.

### **Renaming of Flora Street Walkway Play Park**

The Committee was reminded that a request had been received from the Eastside Partnership seeking permission to rename Flora Street Walkway Play Park to Friendship Play Park.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services recapped that, in August 2017, the Committee had been informed that a decision had been made to omit the play park at Flora Street from the final vote stage of the cumulative naming process to name six new structures which were being constructed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway after one of the preferred name options had been identified as being ineligible in respect of aspects of the Council's naming policy. The Eastside Partnership had advised the Council that they had liaised with a local Community Youth Worker in Avoniel Play Centre (with 30 over thirty years' service) and she had suggested that the play park be renamed 'Friendship Play Park' to reflect how the play park and other facilities in the area, such as the play centre, primary school and leisure centre all encouraged friendship and play amongst children and young people in the community.

The Committee, at its meeting on 8th May, 2018, had agreed that the necessary community consultation on the proposed name change be undertaken and this had now been completed. The Eastside Partnership had consulted with a number of community groups in the area and they had all expressed support for the proposed name.

The Committee approved the request to rename Flora Street Walkway Play Park to Friendship Play Park.

### **Update on Partner Agreements**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven sites and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for July – September 2018.

She advised that the regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance had been undertaken and all sites had been fully compliant.

The Director reminded the Committee that funding of up to £20,000 per annum was available for each partner for the delivery of a programme (supporting the Sports Development Plan). She reported that letters of offer had been sent to all partners based on approved sports development plans in the current financial year and added that full payments had been made to all Partners in this Quarter.

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 September 2018.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

### **Operational Issues**

#### **Street Naming**

The Committee approved the naming in respect of:

- Mount Gilbert, off Lyndhurst View Park, BT13;
- Loughside Chase, off Shore Road, BT15;
- Mill Valley Road, off Ligoniel Road, BT14; and
- Mill Valley Way, off Mill Valley Road, BT14:

#### **Dual Language**

The Committee approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Ponsonby Avenue, Dart Hill, Ballaghbeg, Churchill Street and Lagmore View.

#### **Dual Language - Rose Street**

(Miss N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor, attended in connection with the following two items).

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider an application for the erection of dual language street signs for a new street under construction within the City.**

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to make a decision regarding an application for a dual language street sign for Rose Street as**

it is not covered by the existing Street Naming policy given that no residents can be surveyed as the development is still under construction. Members are reminded that following an unsuccessful legal challenge in respect of the current policy the Court of Appeal affirmed the existence of discretion for the Council to deal with applications notwithstanding that the policy tests were not met and/or in cases in which there were exceptional circumstances.

Members can chose to:

1. Approve the application accepting Radius Housing as the occupier, subject to assessing equality and good relations impacts or
2. Refuse the application and carry out a survey of residents once the development is completed and occupied as per the Street Naming and Numbering policy

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.
- 3.2 Members are asked to consider an application to erect a second street nameplate for Rose Street, located off Springfield Road in BT12, showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.
- 3.3 The original street naming application for Rose Street was approved by the People and Communities Committee on 10th April 2018 and confirmed by the City Council on 1st May 2018.
- 3.4 Following the approval of Rose Street an application for a dual language Irish Street sign has been received from Radius Housing Association. Their request is outside the normal policy as Rose Street is currently under construction, the dwellings are not complete and there are no occupiers in the street.

### **3.5 Background**

The Dual Language Street Naming policy was adopted by the Council on 1st September 1998 and since the policy was



adopted 82% of 212 dual language applications have been approved by the Council with a further 37 applications pending.

- 3.6 In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs the Council is required to take account of the views of the occupiers of premises in the street. For the purposes of the policy occupiers shall be taken to be any person whose name appears in the current electoral register plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises but not employees in such premises.
- 3.7 The procedures for seeking and assessing the views of occupiers and the criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a street sign in a language other than English are as follows:
- (i) Only applications supported by a petition representing not less than one third of the people appearing on the Electoral Register of the street for which the application is made will be progressed.
  - (ii) Where the foregoing requirements have been met, the Council will canvass by post all people appearing on the Electoral Register of that street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specified language. This letter is designed to make the expression of views as simple as possible. Reply will be by way of a pre-paid envelope and should be returned within one month of receipt.
  - (iii) Where two thirds or more of the occupiers appearing on the Electoral Register have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, then such a sign will be erected. People not returning a reply will be deemed not to be in favour of the application.
- 3.8 The translation for Rose Street has been requested from Queens University, the approved translator for dual language Irish street signs in Belfast City Council.
- 3.9 The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least two thirds (66.6%) of the people surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English. The first properties in the street were completed in October. Our understanding from Radius Housing is that the first 10 will be occupied on Thursday 25th October and that the remainder of the properties will complete and be occupied by 6th December. Therefore, to date, Building control have not been able to follow the normal procedure of surveying occupants.

**3.10** The current application falls outside the context of the policy as the request has been made by a housing association for a development that is yet to be completed and for which properties are just beginning to be occupied. In strict legal terms the housing association may be construed as an occupier but not in the same sense as is understood by the policy which is concerned with ascertaining the views of persons residing in the street.

**3.11** There are competing and difficult legal arguments concerning either outcome as per the recommendations. On the one hand there is the desire of the landowner and current legal occupier to erect a second nameplate in Irish. On the other there is the issue as to whether in this particular case, given that occupation is imminent, it is appropriate to defer the application and request it be processed in accordance with the current policy when the street is fully occupied. What is clear is there needs to be a case by case approach to such applications in respect of streets for which there is a landowner (and therefore a legal occupier) but in which there are no residents.

**3.12** Financial & Resource Implications

There is a cost of approximately £300 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.

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

The Equality and Diversity Unit have contributed to the report and will advise on the equality and good relations processes and implications in the event that a decision is taken to approve. In the event that negative impacts are identified, the application will be referred back to committee for further consideration.”

The Council’s Solicitor advised the Committee that, as had been highlighted within paragraphs 3.4 and 3.9 of the report, should it be minded to agree to erect a dual language street sign at this location without surveying those on the electoral register, it would be contrary to the Council’s Street Naming Policy and it would be subject to equality screening.

Moved by Councillor Canavan,  
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

That the Committee agrees that dual language signs be erected at Rose Street, subject to an equality assessment, as an exception to the Council’s Street Naming Policy, on the basis that, surrounding and adjacent streets had dual language signs erected, the street was located in the Gaeltacht Quarter and it viewed the Housing Association, who had made the application and owned the houses, as the occupier of the land given the street was not fully occupied.

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

### **Dual Language - Mountforde Park**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider an application for the erection of a dual language street sign for an existing street within the City.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to make a decision on the proposal to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at Mountforde Park. This request is outside the Street Naming Policy as there are no properties within the street, therefore no survey had been carried out.**

**2.2 Members are reminded that following an unsuccessful legal challenge in respect of the current policy the Court of Appeal affirmed the existence of discretion for the Council to deal with applications notwithstanding that the policy tests were not met and/or in cases in which there were exceptional circumstances.**

**2.3 Committee is therefore asked to consider whether it wishes to exercise its discretion in these circumstances.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Key Issues**

**The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.**

**3.2 The legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to take account of the views of the occupiers of the premises in the street. The Council will normally canvass all people appearing on the electoral register of the street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second language. Members are reminded that following an unsuccessful legal challenge in respect of the current policy the Court of Appeal affirmed the existence of discretion for the Council to deal with applications notwithstanding that the policy tests were not met and/or in cases in which there were exceptional circumstances.**

- 3.3 Councillor Mairéad O Donnell has made a request for an Irish dual language sign at Mountforde Park. There are no properties, and therefore no residents in Mountforde Park to survey as it is a small street, which facilitates access to four streets which have already had dual language street signs erected by Belfast City Council.
- 3.4 Members are asked to consider this application for Mountforde Park to erect a second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.
- 3.5 In support of the application for a dual language Irish sign at Mountforde Park, Councillor O Donnell has advised that this is a small street located off Mountforde Road in the Short Strand area of BT5. Mountforde Park has no residents and there is no opportunity to develop or continue this street. The four streets accessed from and located off Mountforde Park are: Comber Court, Bryson Court, Bryson Gardens and Comber Gardens and all have approved dual language Irish street signs erected by Belfast City Council. The first three being approved in 2002 and Comber Gardens was surveyed in May 2018 with 89% of residents responding in favour of an Irish dual language sign. The application was subsequently approved at the People and Communities Committee on 7th August 2018 and Council on 3rd September 2018.
- 3.6 The three streets surrounding Mountforde Park, Bryson street, Beechfield street and Mountforde Road have also been previously been surveyed by Belfast City Council and have dual language Irish signs erected.
- 3.7 Councillor O Donnell has advised that the residents in these surrounding and adjacent streets are supportive of dual language signs at Mountforde Park.
- 3.8 Belfast City Council has written to QUB for the translation for Mountforde Park and we are awaiting a response.
- 3.9 The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least two thirds (66.6%) of the people surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English. Given that there are no properties or residents in the street a survey has not been carried out and the request is brought before members to determine if the dual language street sign should be erected.
- 3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

There is a cost of approximately £150 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street

signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.

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

**There are no direct equality/rural needs implications.”**

Moved by Councillor Canavan,  
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

That the Committee agrees that dual language sign be erected at Mountforde Park as an exception to the Council’s Street Naming Policy as the street had no residents, there would be no opportunity to develop the street and the surrounding and adjacent streets had dual language street signs erected.

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

**Request for the use of Ulidia Playing Fields**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from SÓLÁS, a special needs charity that supported children and young people, seeking permission for access from its special needs facility at the adjacent Parkmore building to Ulidia Playing Fields.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that, with £100k support from the Council’s Local Investment Fund, SÓLÁS had recently acquired the Parkmore Building from the Belfast Met and had been operating from that facility since September 2017. He explained that the new site was adjacent to Ulidia Playing Fields and, whilst the building provided a much needed base for SÓLÁS, it was restricted by its size. SÓLÁS had asked the Council to install a pedestrian access to Ulidia Playing Fields from their site, this would provide the children and young people with disabilities with safe access to the playing fields, enabling it to be used for a range of outdoor activities.

The Committee noted that Rosario YFC currently held a partnership agreement for Ulidia Playing Fields and were fully supportive of the request.

The Committee granted permission for a pedestrian access arrangement with SÓLÁS, which would provide safer access for children and young people with disabilities. It agreed further, in principle, to the use of the facilities by SÓLÁS, subject to agreement with the local site manager and Rosario YFC who held a partnership agreement for Ulidia Playing Fields.

**Update on Green Flag Parks**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee of the successful achievement of the nineteen Green Flag awards across the City of Belfast in 2018 for the City and Neighbourhood Services Department’s parks and open spaces.

The Committee noted that this was a tremendous achievement and that the staff had been thanked for their hard work and effort.

The Director then detailed that the cost for submitting the proposed Green Flag applications and assessment for 2019 would be approximately £10,000 and confirmed that this had had been included in the department's budget.

The Committee:

- noted the achievement of the nineteen Green Flag Awards across the City of Belfast in 2018; and
- granted permission to nominate Drumglass Park to apply for Green Flag accreditation in 2019, along with the resubmission of the existing Green Flag sites.

### **Waste Agenda - update on consultation findings**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 This report is primarily to provide Members with an update on the Waste Framework and the results of the recent public consultation on the preferred, kerbside waste collection arrangements.**

**1.2 To highlight opportunities to work with neighbouring councils, to submit an application for funding from DAERA and to consider additional steps for Members to familiarise themselves with the revised preferred waste collection option.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are requested to:**

- 1. Note the results of the public consultation exercise and agree the approach in principle for kerbside collections outlined in the report, subject to the successful conclusion of the project through the Council's capital works programme ;**
- 2. Prepare a business case for funding for a preferred kerbside waste collection options trial from DAERA and present this to the SP&R Committee for consideration and explore opportunities to collaborate in a pilot with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) on waste collection arrangements;**
- 3. Propose a Members/Officers study visit to councils in Wales in order to improve understanding of how the preferred waste collection option could work, following Welsh successes in improving the quality of collected materials, and**
- 4. Agree to a study visit for Members/Officers to local businesses and organisations which are demonstrating how waste and resources is actively contributing to the Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.**

3.0 **Main report**

**Background**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Waste Framework document was approved by the People & Communities Committee in June 2017. This provided an overview of options regarding how waste could be collected, treated and in general managed within the city over the next decade, including what steps we (the Council) would have to take to engage with householders and some of the new approaches and equipment which are now being used in this process. The framework outlined issues around legislative requirements, changes in the local marketplace, and the need to bring about significant behavioural change to achieve challenging recycling and landfill diversion targets. To future-proof the document, the Waste Framework was developed to align with the Belfast Agenda by recognising the value inherent in waste and how this could contribute to the Circular Economy, support jobs and boost the economy. This latter point has become even more relevant in the intervening months.
- 3.2 The Waste Framework outlined four areas namely: collection arrangements, infrastructure, behaviour change and technology. This report focused on potential waste collection arrangements and outlined a proposal for a uniform, kerbside collection scheme throughout Belfast. This option, as outlined in the document, involves transitioning from fortnightly collected blue recycling bins – to a weekly, segregated collection of dry recyclables and food waste, combined with a three weekly collection of residual waste.

## Collections - Potential Approach



- 3.3 This weekly/three weekly approach was based on the WRAP NI Recycling Gap analysis carried out for DAERA for Northern Ireland in 2017. This approach was re-enforced for Belfast by a bespoke options appraisal, conducted by Resource Futures using the Council's Collaborative Agreement with WRAP (see Appendix 1 for summary – the full document is available on request).

- 3.4 The advantages identified of rolling out such a scheme included;
1. A city wide, standardised approach which would assist with consistent communications and reduce confusion around different kerbside collection schemes;
  2. Decreased contamination of recyclables which would result in higher quality materials<sup>1</sup> supporting local jobs and improved income streams;
  3. Greater range of materials collected at the kerbside, including glass;
  4. Recyclables used as feedstock for local re-processors which would support the local economy;
  5. Increased frequency of collection (weekly) which would be of particular benefit to householders in relation to the collection of food waste;
  6. Legislative compliance with regard to the need for separate collections.

**Preliminary Engagement**

- 3.5 In order to gauge the suitability of the Resource Futures options appraisal, late last year the Consultation Institute and Social Market Research (SMR) were commissioned to undertake phase one of a consultation exercise on options, including the weekly/three weekly approach. The consultation comprised three elements: 6 x focus groups, 400 x doorstep surveys and 10 x stakeholder interviews.
- 3.6 In summary, the exercise indicated that when the benefits were clearly articulated, the level of positivity and acceptance of the potential scheme increased markedly. Support for the introduction of a smaller 180-litre grey/black bin or reduced frequency collections (3 weekly) was marginally in favour, with responses from larger households pointing out the challenges with implementing such a scheme.
- 3.7 The stakeholders group<sup>2</sup> voiced strong support for the proposals. This group were particularly aware of the Chinese Government's *Operation National Sword* which is being applied as a means to reduce the impact of low-quality (i.e. contaminated) imported waste which has resulted in trade restrictions on waste imports in order to protect its environment and support Chinese jobs. The most relevant

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<sup>1</sup> This issue is increasing in importance as markets for low grade recyclate are rapidly reaching capacity

<sup>2</sup> This was made up of representative of the statutory, business and non-governmental organisations (NGO) sectors



import restrictions, affecting councils across the developed world, are (i) banning post-consumer plastics and mixed/unsorted paper (ii) setting a 0.5% tolerance level for sorted paper and (iii) restricting the number of import waste licences to China.

- 3.8 Historically, the UK has been heavily reliant on exporting large quantities of paper and plastics to China. With the restriction/cessation of this export market, alternatives are being considered but, in the process, the income for these lower quality paper recyclables has fallen sharply. In the past month, the popular press has highlighted that some councils' costs have risen by £500k to manage their (low grade) plastics and that with several countries reaching capacity for what they can process, concerns are increasing that some materials being exported are simply being dumped.
- 3.9 Locally, the Council's materials are currently finding markets but the ongoing focus on improving the quality of recyclables is gaining momentum rapidly. Top grade paper, collected at the kerbside, continues to command good prices from local re-processors such as Huhtamaki. On the other hand, the mixed materials from the co-mingled (blue bin) collections have fallen in value resulting in increased gate fees for these materials. Taking a strategic view, the Council needs to shift its focus from simply delivering ever-increasing weight based goals to generating high-quality recyclables for use by local re-processors. This approach, in line with the Belfast Agenda, will mitigate the risk of market volatility, optimise income from the sale of recyclables and support local jobs.
- 3.10 The results of the preliminary exercise were used to inform the development of a full consultation, and SMR were commissioned to assist in this process.

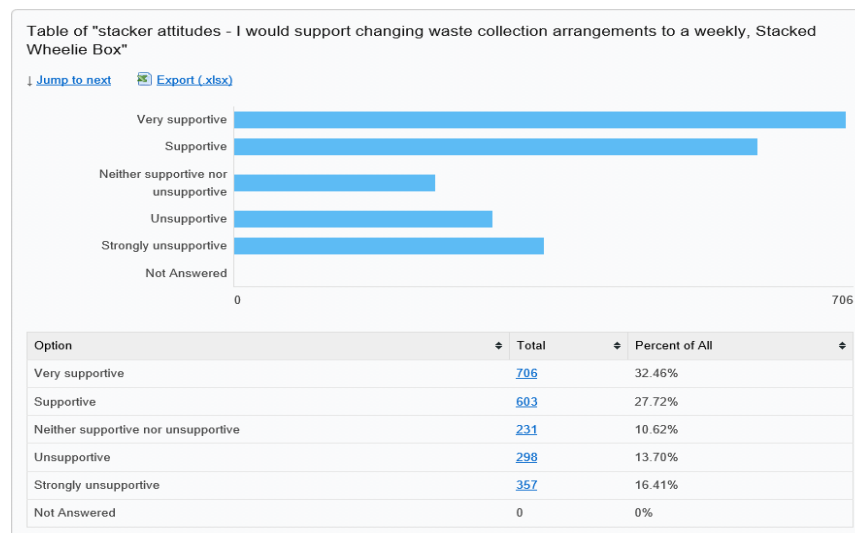
**Public Consultation – Citizen Space & Independent Survey**

- 3.11 The full public consultation exercise involved the use of the Council's online Citizen Space portal, supported by roadshows (19 in total). As online campaigns can be skewed, in order to capture a representative sample of householders citywide, SMR conducted a statistically relevant survey (circa 1,100 respondents) and also provided a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of all the consultation responses.
- 3.12 The consultation consisted of questions on potential kerbside waste collection options and in particular the weekly/three weekly approach outlined above. Other questions were included to gather householders' attitudes to recycling, and to gather information on how changes could

impact in ways not already identified within the existing polices (e.g. assisted lifts, family size, &c – see Appendix 2).

- 3.13 The 10 week online consultation period (30 July – 7 Oct) attracted considerable media coverage and a total of 2,175 responses were submitted which will inform future communication campaigns.
- 3.14 Analysis of the data demonstrated strong support for the proposed kerbside collection system for dry recyclables<sup>3</sup> with just over 60% either supportive or very supportive of the proposed change, 10% were neither for nor against and 30% were not supportive (see Table 1).

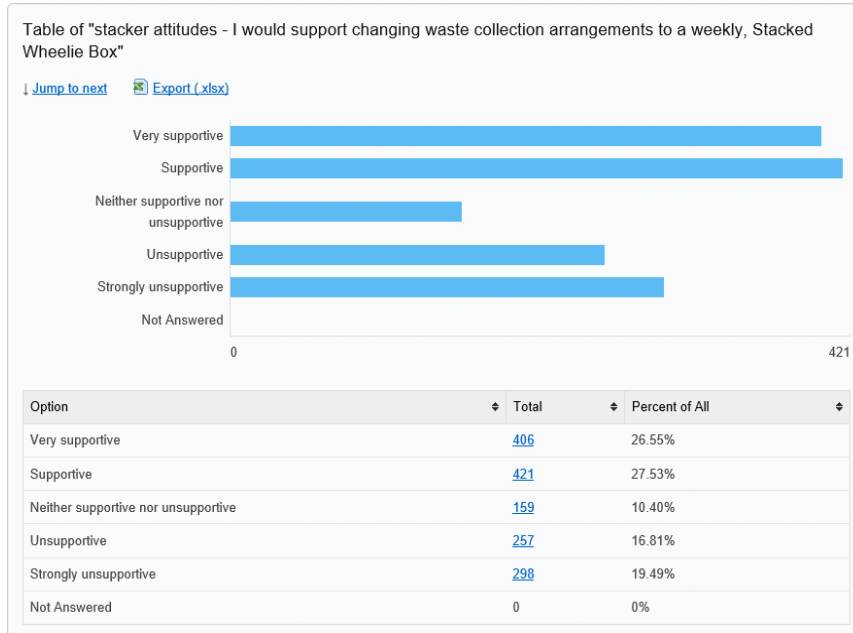
**Table 1 : Attitudes to the Wheelie-box**



- 3.15 The independent survey by SMR was more definitive with 77% of interviewees supporting a shift to the proposed kerbside collection system for dry recyclables. Drilling into the online results to specifically consider the views of households on the blue bin collection scheme shows a majority of respondents either supportive or very supportive of changing to the wheelie-box (54% – see Table 2).

<sup>3</sup> A weekly, segregated collection of dry recyclables in a wheelie-box

**Table 2: Attitudes of Residents on the Co-mingled, Blue Bin Scheme.**



**3.16 Considering the question of bin size and frequency of collection, both the online campaign and independent survey showed marked support for a 180 litre bin collected on a fortnightly basis as opposed to any other collection frequency (see Table 3). This is not in keeping with the weekly/three weekly approach recommended within the Resource Futures study.**

**Table 3 : Attitudes in Relation to Residual Bin Capacity**

Behaviour Change Option	Citizen Space %	Independent Survey %
180 litres residual bin collected fortnightly	75	81
240 litre residual bins collected every 3 weeks	18	16
240 litre residual bins collected every 4 weeks	7	3

3.17 Other information was gathered and responses worth highlighting include (a) strong support for kerbside glass collections, and weekly food waste collections (a feature of the proposed scheme) (b) a desire to increase re-use, recycling and re-processing capacity in NI versus exporting these materials and (c) an understanding that these materials could further support the local economy (a summary of these issues has been produced, see Table 4).

3.18 The consultation also sought the views to potential participation barriers in the proposed kerbside collection scheme; there were 1,711 comments which SMR categorised to highlight the most important:

- Space limitations within respondents' houses
- Positive changes (e.g. easier to recycle, better range of materials, &c,)
- Preference for the current arrangements (blue bin)
- Kerbside collection of glass recycling
- Concerns over weight of new bins

**Table 4: Miscellaneous issues – Glass, Food & the Circular Economy**

Question	Citizen %	Space %	Independent Survey %
supportive of everyone receiving a weekly glass collection	61		77
supportive of everyone receiving a weekly food waste collection	67		82
agree that they would recycle more if they knew that recycling was creating more jobs	45		81
residents agree that each piece of waste should be collected and, as far as possible, treated in Northern Ireland for recycling, repair and reuse here	82		89
are supportive of accepting a different waste collection system if it created quality employment and boosted the local economy	67		82

- 3.19 Subject to Member approval for the kerbside waste collection arrangements, these responses will help inform interventions and assist in developing targeted communications campaigns which would accompany any roll-out (see Appendix 3 for the Executive Summary, the full report is available on request).
- 3.20 Nineteen roadshows were also held across the city (see Appendix 4) where householders were able to read supporting information and pose questions directly to staff. At these events, it was possible to complete the questionnaire either electronically or in paper format.

**DAERA Funding**

- 3.21 Currently, Government is restricted in discharging many of its duties due to the Buick decision, and this has disrupted potential financial support for councils in proposing new waste collection and treatment arrangements. Recently, DAERA has indicated that limited amounts of grant aid may be available in the current (2018/19) financial year which could be used to pilot certain recycling schemes.
- 3.22 Currently, to ensure that the preferred kerbside waste collection arrangements is included within the Council's potential programme of works, a project proposal has been submitted and approved through the capital works programme and is currently listed as Stage 2 – Uncommitted. An Outline Business Case (OBC) is being developed. In order to apply for DAERA support, an OBC must be made outlining within a tight financial envelope what is being proposed. Currently, an application is being prepared and, subject to Members approving in principle these kerbside waste collection arrangements, this would be submitted to the SP&R Committee for consideration.

**Collaboration**

- 3.23 Several neighbouring councils are also considering their future waste collection arrangements and, in line with Belfast, have recognised that there is a flight to quality concerning recyclates. As a result, they are developing (or implementing) similar kerbside proposals and, having already worked in the arc21 partnership for many years, are now enquiring if there is scope for greater collaboration going forward. Initial discussions have shown a willingness to explore how this could be achieved, including procurement exercises which could lead to economies of scale and improved consistency across the councils' areas. Members are asked to endorse this approach.

**Site Visits**

- 3.24 In order to improve understanding of how the proposed kerbside waste collection arrangements could work, it is recommended that a Members/Officers study visit should be undertaken to councils in Wales which have already implemented similar collection schemes. Over the past decade, this has resulted in considerable improvements in the Welsh recycling rates while simultaneously improving the quality of materials collected and could be facilitated by WRAP under the Circular Economy Collaborative Agreement with the Council.
- 3.25 In addition, once the materials have been collected, they can be fed into local supply chains – which is already happening with the inner-city box scheme. As there are existing arrangements in place, it is also recommended that Members agree to a study visit to local businesses and organisations which are currently using several material streams in order to be able to see how waste and resources are actively contributing to the Circular Economy in NI and supporting local jobs, and to hear the scope for increasing this supply.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.26 Currently, the proposed kerbside waste collection scheme project is at Stage 2 – Uncommitted of the Council's capital programme and an Outline Business Case (OBC) is being developed. DAERA has indicated that grant funding of around £500k may be available for the Council in the current financial year to pilot the proposed scheme.
- 3.27 The Service is preparing a report for submission to the SP&R Committee regarding an application for this interim DAERA funding. Should the application be successful, it is envisaged that a procurement exercise would be initiated for the purchase of capital items (vehicles and containers) with the implementation of an in-house trial of the proposed scheme in late summer 2019. There may be benefits in collaborating with neighbouring councils as part of any procurement exercise.
- 3.28 Also, to inform this proposed kerbside waste collection arrangements, it is recommended that a study visit be arranged to a number of councils in Wales subject to available budget, to see first-hand how to introduce such a scheme, avoid the pitfalls and ensure householder buy-in. It is proposed to work with WRAP to develop a programme of visits.

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

**3.29 The equality and rural needs assessments have been completed for the proposed scheme.”**

The Committee agreed:

- to defer further consideration of the results of the public consultation exercise to enable Party Group Briefings to be held during January 2019;
- that officers prepare a business case for funding for a preferred kerbside waste collection options trial from DAERA and present this to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration, it further agreed to explore opportunities to collaborate in a pilot with Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council in respect of waste collection arrangements. Should the collaboration approach not be possible, Belfast City Council would progress with the pilot on its own;
- that an all-Party delegation visit, to include the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and relevant officers, to Councils in Wales in order to improve understating of how the preferred waste collection option could work; and
- a study visit for Members of the Committee and relevant officers to local businesses and organisations which were demonstrating how waste and resources was actively contributing to the Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.

**Environmental Noise Directive - Third Round**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 The Committee is advised that the Environmental Noise Directive (END) and the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 place a duty on the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to periodically undertake noise mapping for noise sources within their respective areas of responsibility in order to identify locations where members of the public are predicted to be exposed to excessive noise levels.**
- 1.2 Based upon the noise mapping results, competent authorities are required to develop and adopt Noise Action Plans in order to prevent and reduce environmental noise where exposure levels can induce harmful human health**

effects. The Noise Action Plans also seek to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.

- 1.3 Accordingly, DfI, GBBCA and DAERA are presently consulting on their draft third round Noise Action Plans for road sources, aircraft noise and industrial noise sources respectively. The plans cover the 5-year period 2019–2024 and are available to download via the following weblinks:

- <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/environmental-noise-directive-road-noise-action-plan-2018-2023>
- <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/Round3IndustryNoiseActionPlan>
- <http://www.belfastcityairport.com/Community/Environment/Aircraft-Noise/Noise-Action-Plan-2019-2024>

- 1.4 This report serves to provide an overview of the draft Noise Action Plans to Committee and to seek the Committee's assent to provide the attached consultation responses to DfI and GBBCA in respect of their draft Noise Action Plans.

- 1.5 The Committee is advised that the closing date for receipt of consultation responses to the Department for Infrastructure Roads, Environmental Noise Directive Round Three Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 is 16th November 2018, whereas the closing date for receipt of consultation responses to the George Best Belfast City Airport Environmental Noise Directive Round Three - Draft Noise Action Plan 2019-2024 was 26th October 2018. An extension to the submission date has been granted by GBBCA.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report;

- on draft third round Noise Action Plans for DfI Roads, George Best Belfast City Airport and DAERA industry noise sources.

- 2.2 Members are asked to consider the;

- draft consultation responses in respect of the DfI Roads and George Best Belfast City Airport Draft Noise Action Plans, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report, and to recommend that these responses be forwarded to DfI Roads and to George Best Belfast City Airport.



2.3 Members are advised that the consultation responses will be marked as being in draft format and subject to ratification by Council at its next scheduled meeting of 3rd December 2018.

3.0 Main report

Department for Infrastructure Roads - Noise Action Plan 2018- 023.

3.1 DfI has advised that 3rd round noise mapping has taken account of all major roads across Northern Ireland with more than 3 million vehicle passages per year and all roads within the Belfast Agglomeration. DfI has further advised that whilst the legislation does not include noise limit values, DfI has been recommended to identify those locations where the top 1% of the population are affected by the highest noise levels.

3.2 As a consequence of the roads noise modelling, DfI has identified a series of approximately 19 Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs) across Belfast. Accordingly, CNMAs within the Belfast City Council area include at road locations such as the A12 Westlink, M2 Motorway at Glasgow Street and at the Whitewell Road, Ballygomartin Road, Shore Road, Beersbridge Road, Carrick Hill, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Parkgate Avenue, My Lady's Road and at Broadway.

3.3 For those CNMAs located around the A12 Westlink corridor and the M2 Motorway, it is noted that some of the proposed mitigation measures, such as noise barriers and low noise surfacing, were identified during previous round of noise mapping but have not yet been implemented. These measures have therefore been carried forward into the draft third round Noise Action Plan with a planned revised delivery date of 2023. For other areas of the city, mitigation measures include the introduction of initiatives such as car pools, cycle to work schemes and a greater use of public transport. DfI has also identified that some of the CNMAs could benefit from their proximity to the new Belfast Rapid Transit. All of these softer measures that rely on 'modal shift' also have a delivery date of 2023.

3.4 It is considered however, that where residential properties have been determined by DfI to be subject to excessive road noise levels, more affirmative mitigation measures should be considered by the Department, as opposed to relying upon the introduction of initiatives such as car pools, cycling to work schemes and encouraging the use of public transport. Furthermore, it is unclear who would be responsible for introducing specific measures such as car pools and cycle

to work schemes for the various CNMAs and how their implementation and impact could be monitored in order that road transport noise levels are reduced to acceptable levels by 2023.

- 3.5 Moreover, it is noted that some of the mitigation measures proposed for the A12 Westlink at Little Georges Street form part of the York Street Interchange upgrade and that acoustic barriers and low noise surfacing proposed for the M2 Motorway, adjacent to the Whitewell Road, have been carried over from previous Noise Action Plans. All of these engineering solutions will require significant financial resources to be secured.

George Best Belfast City Airport Draft Noise Action Plan 2019- 024.

- 3.6 GBBCA has advised that the Airport's strategic noise maps have been based on aircraft movements during the calendar year of 2016. Noise maps have been presented as noise contours for several indicators relating to the average noise level in decibels (dB) over specific periods of time.
- 3.7 In referring to the various noise maps, it is noted that the number of dwellings exposed to more than 50 dB LAeq, 16-hour has reduced from 25,326 in the second round of noise mapping (2011 data) to 15,475 dwellings in the third round of noise mapping (2016 data), with a corresponding drop in population exposure from 51,955 to 34,348. Furthermore, there has also been a reduction in the size of all END indicators in round 3 as compared to round 2, with the exception of the 65 – 69 dB L<sub>night</sub> contour band, which does not include any residential or sensitive receptors.
- 3.8 It is also noted that the reduction in the size of the mapped contours and subsequently the reduction in the number of dwellings and population exposed to the higher noise bands appears largely due to a change in the fleet mix at the airport, with a drop in the number of jet aircraft movements and an increase in the number of quieter turbo propeller aircraft. The Dash 8 Q400 is considered to be a relatively quiet aircraft and presently makes up a large proportion of aircraft movements at GBBCA.
- 3.9 GBBCA has highlighted that for round 3 of the noise mapping, the top 1% of the population exposed to the highest noise levels equates to 343 people or approximately 155 dwellings as compared to 520 people and 250 dwellings in round 2. These dwellings are located next to the Sydenham Bypass in the areas of Sydenham and Ballymacarrett.

- 3.10 Accordingly, the Airport, on consideration of the noise reduction measures already in place, including those contained within the 2008 Planning Agreement and the existing voluntary measures detailed in the round 2 noise action plan, the community attitudes survey and the regulatory and policy framework has determined that it is not appropriate to designate any Candidate Noise Management Areas as part of its 3rd round Noise Action Plan.
- 3.11 Government has recognised however, that the onset of annoyance or nuisance can occur in lower noise contour bands and has highlighted that the Environmental Noise Directive does not preclude competent authorities from considering the impact of noise beyond the top 1% of the population affected. On this basis, the Council would recommend that GBBCA should consider actions that might be taken to reduce exposure to aircraft noise in these lower noise level contour bands.
- 3.12 Additionally, the Council notes that there is a reduction in the number of schools and colleges exposed to more than 50 dB LAeq 16-hour and that no hospitals or hospices are exposed to noise at or above this level. Whilst none of these premises qualify for noise insulation, the committee is reminded that GBBCA does support a range of local educational institutions through its Community Fund /Corporate Responsibility Programme.
- 3.13 It is noted that no residential or 'sensitive premises' qualify for a Noise Insulation Grant at this time. Whilst the Environmental Noise Directive does not specify what constitutes 'sensitive premises', GBBCA has referred to the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) guidance for airport operators in England. Accordingly, GBBCA has considered schools, colleges, hospitals and hospices. The Council would recommend however, that residential or nursing homes should also be considered as sensitive premises within the Airport's noise insulation qualification criteria. In advancing this recommendation, the Council recognises that GBBCA will have to consider the economic costs of any proposed actions and balance them against the likely health improvements that could be achieved.

**DAERA Industry Noise Action Plan Round 3.**

- 3.14 DAERA has advised that for the 3rd round of noise mapping and action planning, 130 industrial sites were mapped, of which 108 are located within the Belfast agglomeration. Of these, 62 are located within the Port area of Belfast. The noise mapping involves an assessment of the area, the

number of dwellings and the number of people exposed to industrial noise.

- 3.15 A comparison between round 2 and 3 results reveals that whilst a slightly greater total area is affected by noise levels greater than 50dB LAeq 16 hour, the number of dwellings and the population affected have reduced to approximately one-third of what they were in round 2.
- 3.16 DAERA has reported that the round 3 noise mapping results are very positive, particularly given that only six individuals and four properties were affected by the top 1% of industrial noise in Round 2. These properties were investigated and found to be non-residential and thus no further action was deemed necessary.
- 3.17 DAERA has additionally reported that based on the round 3 noise mapping results, 246 people within the Belfast agglomeration experience industry noise levels of 50dB LAeq 16-hour or more. 1% of this number is 2.4 people (rounded to 2 people) equating to 2 properties. Analysis of the available data has shown that 7 properties fall within the 60-64 dB LAeq 16-hour range. The two residential buildings with the highest exposure in this range are located near an industrial IPPC site located on the eastern edge of the Belfast Agglomeration, near Knock/Dundonald, outside the Belfast City Council boundary. DAERA has stated that if the modelled noise levels at this location are found to be realistic of ambient conditions, then consideration will be given to noise reduction measures already in place and what further action can be taken before the location is considered for identification as a CNMA.
- 3.18 On this basis, DAERA has advised that noise from Part A PPC installations are controlled by conditions in Part A PPC permits, (including noise management plans where appropriate), which are assessed as part of periodic routine site inspections. DAERA has further advised that noise emissions from Part B and C industrial installations are controlled by District Councils using Statutory Nuisance provisions under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Where the top 1% of properties are affected by noise from either part B or C processes, the Department will liaise with the relevant District Council to determine whether or not complaints have been received. However, DAERA has stated that noise from Part B and C PPC installations is not thought to be a significant issue within the Belfast Agglomeration, nor a significant contributor to the combined impact from other sources of noise.

- 3.19 Accordingly, it is considered that no consultation response is required in respect of the DAERA Industry Noise Action Plan Round 3.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.20 No financial or resource implications have been identified.

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

- 3.21 No Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs implications.”

The Committee endorsed the draft consultation responses, available on the Council’s website [here](#) and [here](#) in respect of the Department for Infrastructure Roads and George Best Belfast City Airport Environmental Draft Noise Action Plans. It was noted that, in order to meet the deadlines, the responses would be submitted in draft form which would be subject to ratification by the Council.

**Stadia Community Benefits Initiative**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and update on the action plan.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the content of the report.

3.0 **Main report**

- 3.1 The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.

- 3.2 The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits, and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative (‘the Project’) to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.

- 3.3** In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it is anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in gaelic games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. It is anticipated that gaelic games programmes will be fully incorporated into the action plan in the next financial year and that GAA representatives will join the governance structure at Delivery Board and Policy and Performance Board level.
- 3.4** The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary. Formal review of the agreement will be carried out in years 5 and 10.
- 3.5** The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:
- Number of coaching sessions provided
  - Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching
  - Number of sessions improving club governance
  - Number of volunteering opportunities
  - Participation opportunities for under 16s
  - Female participation rates
  - Number of people completing skills development programme
  - Number of sessions for under-represented groups
  - Number of sessions for school and youth groups
  - Community group usage of stadia
  - Number of clubs attaining club-mark
  - Educational opportunities
  - Number of programmes targeting ASB
  - Improved collaborative working
  - Number of disabled participants

- Number of older people participating

- 3.6 Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, an annual work-plan was developed for year 1(17-18), with programme delivery commencing in April 2017. The annual plan for year 1 featured 19 projects ranging from volunteer conferences to setting up new disability sections within existing clubs. The 2017-2018 programme created participation opportunities for under-presented groups: 2267(U16's), 421(females), 263(older people) and 86(people with disabilities). This included the delivery of: 132 coaching sessions, education/skill development programmes (884 educational opportunities and 52 skill development opportunities) and 23 community events/tours at the Stadium.
- 3.7 Programme delivery for year 2(18-19) is currently under-way including similar programmes as last year, with additional support this year given to female development and street soccer. This has demonstrated an increase in female participation opportunities 648 (18-19, quarter 2 update) compared to annual figure of 421 female participation opportunities in year 17-18. The inclusion of the street soccer programme has helped to enhance our collaborative working and engage in the delivery of more ASB programmes compared to last year, including more ASB programmes targeting females.
- 3.8 At the end of quarter 2, the performance report for 2018-19 indicates that the majority of intermediate benefits are on target, with the exception of a small lag against 3 intermediate benefits (number of sessions for under-represented groups, ASB programmes and educational opportunities). The board received satisfactory assurance that these benefits would be caught up in quarter 3 and 4. Quarter 1 & 2 (18-19).
- 3.9 Olympia Leisure Centre (phase C) was officially opened on 21 June 2018. This has enabled the delivery of more community events and coaching programmes at the National Football Stadium. This has demonstrated an increase coaching sessions provided through the programme 182(18-19, quarter 2 update) compared to annual figure of 132 (17-18). Also this new facility has resulted in a noticeable increase in school/community group usage of the stadium, creating 93 community usage opportunities (18-19 quarter 2 update) compared to annual figure of 77 community usage opportunities (17-18).

**3.10 Finance and Resource Implications**

In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project.

Council's contribution has been targeted at football in year 1 and year 2 delivery. As the Partnership develops Council's contribution will be allocated proportionally across the planned programmes according to their respective contributions and outcomes.

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

**There are no known implications."**

The Committee noted the update.

**Community Centre Closures**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed Community Centre opening hours over the Christmas period 2018.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the majority of user groups took a break from their programmes and meetings over the holiday period and there was usually extremely low footfall and usage. She detailed that the following revised opening times for 2018 were proposed:

<b>Christmas 2018</b>			
Christmas Eve	Monday 24th Dec 9-5pm 6-10pm	Open Closed	Annual Leave
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25th Dec	Closed	Statutory Holiday
Boxing Day	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closed	Statutory Holiday
	Thurs.27 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 28th December	Closed	Annual Leave (2)
New Year's Eve	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Closed	Extra Statutory Holiday
New Year's Day	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Closed	Statutory Holiday



The Committee:

- agreed to the closure to the public of Belfast City Council Community Centres for defined seasonal periods at Christmas, subject to staff taking annual leave for any days that were not statutory holidays; and
- noted that any staff wishing to work over these periods on the non-statutory holidays would be facilitated.

### **Expression of Interest – Heritage Lottery Fund and National Trust**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that the Future Park Accelerator (FPA) was a new initiative and joint venture between the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the National Trust. It was available to land owners and managers of public parks and green spaces throughout the United Kingdom. The fund was aimed at supporting innovative projects and applicants could apply for financial support of between £250k and £1million pounds.

The Director explained that the Council's proposed enhancement project focused on a City Wide Scale Project to enhance Belfast City Council sites for biodiversity whilst ensuring community involvement buy in. Activities would be undertaken across the City and the Council would not only involve existing park users but also would engage with new groups and communities to shape their local areas. A key focus would be on health and wellbeing, physical activity and participation, for example:

- proposals might include habitat management for pollinators which could include both semi-natural areas and horticultural features;
- horticultural improvements such as scoping alternative means of working for example around pesticide usage;
- restoration of habitats including hedgerows, woodland, wetlands, species rich grasslands etc;
- all proposals would be linked to upskilling staff and community groups in areas such as recording species and habitat management; and
- events programmes that would engage and enthuse Belfast ratepayers.

The Committee noted that this proposal aligned to the Belfast Agenda's Living Here priority to make Belfast a great place to live, it also supported the Future Parks Accelerator aim of promoting a step-change in how people engage with their parks in order to maximise public benefit, local potential and innovation.

The Director advised that, following receipt of the expression of interest, the funders would make an initial judgement on whether the idea demonstrated the potential to meet the FPA funding criteria. It would then decide whether to invite a full application form around the 26th November (to be confirmed).

The Committee granted authority for officers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Future Parks Accelerator, by the deadline of 19th November, to seek potential funding for proposed enhancement projects in Council parks and open spaces. If successful, it was agreed further that officers would progress and submit a full funding application (subject to Council ratification and agreement with the Director of Finance and Resources on any budgetary impact).

### **Festive Lights in Belvoir Open Space**

The Committee was reminded that it had previously granted approval for the Belvoir Residents Association to erect a living Christmas tree on Belfast City Council land at Belvoir open space.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that Belvoir Area Residents Association had received external funding to purchase and plant the Christmas tree and it had received further external funding to decorate the tree with festive lights.

Approval from the Committee was sought to grant license to connect to a Council owned street light in Belvoir Park, subject to a successful application by the Belvoir Area Residents Association to Northern Ireland Electricity to use the electricity supply.

The Committee granted authority for festive lights to be erected on a living Christmas tree in Belvoir Open Space, subject to Belvoir Area Residents Association receiving the relevant approvals from the Council and Northern Ireland Electricity.

### **Location of a Sandbag Container at Mount Eagles Playground**

The Committee considered a report seeking permission to locate a sandbag container near Mount Eagles Playground, on ground owned by Belfast City Council. The container would store sandbags and bags of rocksalt for use by the community during flooding and severe winter weather.

The Committee was advised that there had, in the past, been issues with flash flooding in the Lagmore area and the nearest sandbag container was located a considerable distance away at Finaghy Road North. In addition to the potential flooding issues, residents had also raised concern regarding the lack of salt provision for local residents during icy conditions.

The Committee noted that the roads in the areas were unadopted and the Department for Infrastructure was unable to provide grit boxes at this time, therefore, as an interim measure it had agreed to locate a sandbag container in the area which could also be used to store bags of rock salt. The DfI would maintain and replenish the container and Council staff would manage access to it in line with arrangements for other sandbag containers.

The Committee approved the location of a new sandbag container near Mount Eagles Playground for the storage of sandbags and bags of rock salt.

**Temporary Structure at Alderman  
Tommy Patton Memorial Park – Verbal Update**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that, at its meeting held on 7th August, it had agreed not to grant permission to East Belfast Football Club to install a temporary container on the Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park. Accordingly, a letter had been forwarded to the Club instructing it to advise the Council of its proposed arrangements for removal of the structure no later than 2nd November. The Director advised that, an e-mail had been received earlier today, on behalf of East Belfast Football Club Management Committee, seeking permission to extend the deadline until 31st December, to enable it to explore alternative options.

Following discussion, it was,

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,  
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

That the Committee agrees not to grant an extension to the East Belfast Club to enable it to explore alternative options regarding the removal of the temporary structure at the Tommy Patton Memorial Park and that officers put the appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure the removal of the structure immediately.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the proposal and none against it was declared carried.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Homelessness - Councillor Heading**

It was agreed that representatives from Building Homes Now would be invited to present to a future special meeting of the Committee, with a date to be agreed with the Chairperson.

**Request to Present – The Belfast Advice Group – Councillor McReynolds**

It was agreed that representatives from the Belfast Advice Group would be invited to present to a future special meeting of the Committee, with a date to be agreed with the Chairperson.

Chairperson