

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



15th October, 2014

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Tuesday, 21st October, 2014 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

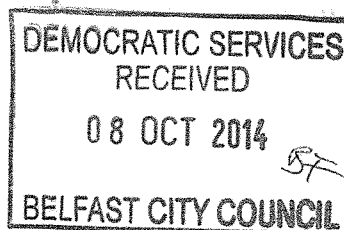
1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
 - (d) Request to Address the Committee in December - The Rank Organisation (Pages 3 - 4)
2. **Departmental Plan - Update (Pages 5 - 16)**
3. **Council support for employability - European Social Fund (Pages 17 - 22)**
4. **City Centre Business Information Point (Pages 23 - 26)**

5. **Digital DNA - Request for Support** (Pages 27 - 28)
6. **City Marketing Activity** (Pages 29 - 30)
7. **The Tall Ships Races 2015 - Update** (Pages 31 - 34)
8. **World Pipe Band Bid** (Pages 35 - 38)
9. **Culture Arts and Leisure Committee - Arts in Working-Class Communities** (Pages 39 - 40)
10. **Community Festivals Fund** (Pages 41 - 42)
11. **Draft Bicycle Strategy - Response** (Pages 43 - 50)
12. **Ainsworth Community Centre** (Pages 51 - 54)
13. **Ballymacarrett Recreation Centre - Lease Renewal** (Pages 55 - 56)
14. **Glen Road Travellers' Site - Renewal of Lease** (Pages 57 - 60)
15. **North Queen Street Community Centre - Lease to Holy Family ABC** (Pages 61 - 62)
16. **Denmark Street Community Centre - Rent Review** (Pages 63 - 64)
17. **Children and Young People - Update** (Pages 65 - 72)
18. **Cancellation of Committee Meeting in November** (Pages 73 - 74)

To: The Chairman and Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee



Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Chair, Development Committee
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Donegall Square
Belfast BT1 1BC



6 October 2014

Dear Councillor Hargey,

Thank you for the opportunity for Dan Waugh and me to present outline proposals for a multi-purpose leisure venue for Belfast at the Development Committee meeting of September 16.

We were heartened by the reactions of your fellow councillors at the full Council meeting on October 1 at which the minutes of the committee meeting and our proposal were discussed.

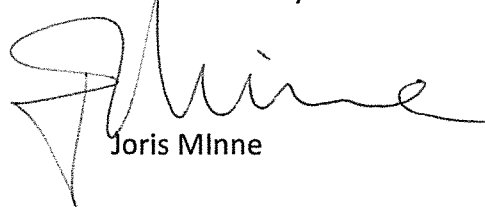
The committee had asked us to come back with some more detailed information on various aspects of the leisure complex with particular focus on the experience of Rank Group with problem gambling and responsible operation.

Ian Burke, Rank Chairman, Henry Birch, Chief Executive and Sir Richard Needham, non-executive director of Rank Group would be very pleased to travel to Belfast to address the Development Committee in December if this was suitable.

We would seek to answer the issues raised and to propose an investment plan which Belfast City Council might consider formally adopting as a component of its regeneration plans for the city centre.

I am happy to liaise with your committee clerk Barry Flynn and Development Director John McGrillen.

Yours sincerely



Joris Minne

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Update of the Departmental Plan
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Claire Patterson, Business Research & Development Manager, ext 3379

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Development Departmental Plan 2014-2015 was approved by the Development Committee on 18 March 2014 with agreement that update reports would be presented to Committee at later dates.
1.2	This update is for the first half of the annual plan, the period up to the end of September 2014.

2	Key Issues
2.1	At the end of September 2014, Service and Unit Managers were asked to provide updates on the status of their unit's key actions with appropriate commentary. These updates are shown in the appendix.
2.2	As Members are aware, a large number of the actions contained within the departmental plan are Local Government Reform (LGR) related. This includes preparing the Department for service convergence as a result of the extended geographic boundary as well as taking a lead role in preparing the organisation for the transfer of a number of functions from central government, namely the transfer of planning and regeneration.
2.3	The Department also has a major role to play in the delivery of the Investment Programme (IP). In August 2014, Committee noted a detailed progress report on a number of key Investment Programme projects - Waterfront Hall conference and exhibition centre, Innovation Centre, Creative Hub and the Public Bike Share Scheme. This is a challenging year for the Department and it is important to note that while significant investment is underway in the IP and LGR, this is matched by the ongoing delivery and continuous improvement of services.

3	Resource Implications
There are no resource implications attached to this report.	

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.	

5	Recommendations
The Committee is asked to note the update on progress of the Development Department Plan for 2014-15.	

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
LGR – Local Government Reform IP – Investment Programme	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Q2 Update 2014-15 Development Department Business Plan	

	City Leadership	
1	Belfast Masterplan support implementation of associated projects.	KS
1a	Update: Delayed – work has continued on the Masterplan following the review and consultation. The Masterplan identified the City Centre as a priority to drive the regional economy and hence resources have been focussed on this aspect. The draft City Centre Regeneration Framework and Investment Plan will be produced during the autumn, along with a final version of the Masterplan.	KS
2	Support the implementation of the Local Investment Fund and Belfast Investment Fund .	KS
2a	Update: On target. Support has continued, along with Property & Projects, for the coordination and delivery of the Local Investment Fund projects supported by the Area Working Groups. The available budgets remain committed and ongoing reviews are continuing to maximise eligible spend under the programme.	KS
3	Support the strategic development of major regeneration schemes such as the University of Ulster North City Campus and the relocation of the BBC in the city centre.	KS
3a	Update: On target. The Council is represented on the Strategic Advisory Forum, which is a public sector working group designed to facilitate the development of the university which is planned to be operational by 2018. Various sub-groups have been established to take forward the detail of the project and the Department participates on the transportation, employability and campus regeneration plan sub-groups. The work with Urban Strategies has shown how the city can maximise the value of a University development in the city and the benefits of clustering developments.	KS
4	Develop and implement an integrated city marketing strategy, which includes an agreed city narrative, refreshed city brand and recommends the optimum structures for co-ordinated marketing of the city .	BJ
4a	Update: This work was delayed due to the need to align with a review of city marketing; community planning; and new, complementary Council strategies, such as the Integrated Tourism Strategy. Committee approved the tender process for this work in September and a report will be brought back to Committee in January.	BJ
5	Implement the framework for developing International Relations .	LL
5a	Update: On target. Stakeholder working groups are continuing to meet to provide a platform for sharing and joint working. The council's membership of NI Connections will ensure that Belfast is promoted where possible through the Diaspora network. China - An MOU has been signed with the City of Shenyang in China and plans are underway for an outward mission in November 2014 to support the opening of the QUB medical campus. Belfast has also hosted Hefei inward civic visit and Chinese student groups. India - Entered into the Ukieri project with Belfast Metropolitan College and working with Bombay Chamber of Commerce to encourage capacity building for companies here and in India for export purposes. Civic support has continued to be provided for inward and outward visits.	LL

	<p>USA - A Sister City agreement has been established with Boston and we are now planning for the establishment of an oversight board and action plan. Hosted an Irish American Partnership mission, American Ireland Fund trade mission, Senator Murray Mass State Senate Prescient visit, Mayor Savage of Halifax visit, Mayor of New Brunswick civic and trade mission visit, Mayor of Boston visit. Undertook civic missions to NYC, Boston, Washington, Toronto, New Brunswick and business mission to NYC.</p> <p>Europe - Entered into MOU with Dublin and planning is taking place around this.</p>	
6	Maximise EU funding from 2015-20 for agreed priority projects.	LL
6a	Update: On target. Over 25 funding opportunities have been identified for BCC from the EU competitive programmes and appropriate bids are now being developed within Council.	LL
7	Lead the NI EU Regional Forum (NIERF) and manage the grant scheme on behalf of OFMDFM.	LL
7a	Update: On target. Secured funding from OFMDFM to put in place administration support for the Forum. OFMDFM did not agree the capacity fund and this will be reconsidered in the October monitoring round. Three NIERF EU information funding events have been held across NI targeting over 250 stakeholders and information is continuing to be disseminated to members on EU policies and funding via the NIERF portal.	LL
8	Implement the Integrated Economic Strategy and associated action plan.	CM
8a	<p>Update: Off Target. The Strategy is being revised in response to Members feedback at June Development Committee to ensure that an action plan could be formulated to enhance the scope of the strategy and its successful implementation. The scope of work involved in this has been expanded due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic application of transferring local economic development powers • Consideration of the Citywide Economic Partnership's fit with partnership structures informing Community Planning • Council employability and skills strategy • Emerging proposals to inform the draft City Centre Regeneration Framework and Investment Plan <p>An action plan is being developed and, as a funder of the IES, Invest NI will be consulted prior to a further draft being presented to SP&R for consideration. An update will also be brought to Development Committee in-line with the resolution.</p>	CM
9	<p>Local Government Reform (LGR)</p> <p>Regeneration and Community Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and oversee the implementation of a transition and resource plan for the transfer of urban regeneration and community development powers from central government to BCC <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and oversee the implementation of a transition and resource plan for the transfer spatial planning functions from central government to BCC 	KS
9a	Update: On Target for Planning and a status report provided to the Shadow	KS

	Committees on progress (Transition and Planning). Regeneration – this is under review in context of the delay to the Primary Legislation.	
9	Facilitate and lead the work originating from the engagement with the Anchor Institutions in the context of community planning.	CP
9a	Update: On target. The Council recognises the significant contribution that anchor institutions make to shape Belfast, its economy and quality of life in the city and has engaged with them as key partners in key strategic developments such as the development of the City Centre Regeneration Framework and investment Plan, Integrated economic Strategy and Tourism Strategy. This collaborative approach with anchors will continue to be built upon for example, through the development of the place positioning strategy and the city-wide community planning process, to enhance the Belfast's social, economic and physical development and build its reputation as a vibrant and welcoming city.	CP
10	Co-ordinate responses for the Department and Council on strategic planning/ transportation policies or issues.	KS
10a	Update: On Target. Responses have been prepared and submitted to a number of recent consultation documents including the Single Planning Policy Statement and PPS22.	KS
11	Co-ordinate responses to physical regeneration plans.	KS
11a	Update: On Target. Engagement has continued on the existing structures and a baseline has been established as part of the preparation for the transfer and extension of powers as a result of Local Government Reform.	KS
Environment		
12	In line with the themes in the Masterplan, develop options for a 'Smart City' strategy.	CP
12a	Update: On target. An initial research exercise has been completed. Urban Strategies are including appropriate proposals within the City Centre Regeneration strategy.	CP
13	Deliver the investment proposition for the Renewable and Low Carbon Technology sectors (Green Business Park).	CM
13a	Update: On target. Key deliverables for the Economic Development Unit need to be agreed with Property & Projects for promotion of the development opportunity, growth of the sector and associated activity.	CM
14	Implement the Belfast public bike hire scheme.	KS
14a	Update: On Target. The Contractor has been appointed and has initiated the developmental works. The Sponsorship approach has been agreed and is continuing. The contractor has appointed consultants to develop a promotional plan and activity schedule to support the introduction of the scheme in 2015.	KS
Economy		
16	Manage the development and funding of increased convention centre and exhibition centre space at the Waterfront Hall .	JO

16 a	Update: The contractors are currently in the detailed design phase of the project. "Breaking ground" is scheduled to commence in September subject to completion of final approvals from the board and planning. The construction programme draft has been supplied indicating practical completion by January 2016 and handover by March 2016.	JO
17	Lead on the delivery of an innovation centre .	CM
17 a	Update: Off target. Reports detailing key issues associated with all ERDF funded capital projects have been tabled to relevant Council committees. A positive Economic appraisal is now completed and the Letter of Offer imminent. Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Communication Plan is being developed towards the realisation of the project. The contractor appointment is concluded and planning application submitted.	CM
18	Lead on the delivery of a creative/digital hub programme.	CM
18 a	Update: Off target. Reports detailing key issues associated with all ERDF funded capital projects have been tabled to relevant Council committees. Resubmission to Invest NI / Cogent (economic appraiser), relating to their most recent queries, have been submitted and the economic appraisal outcome is pending. The Design team appointment has been concluded subject to receipt of a positive economic appraisal.	CM
19	Super-connected Broadband - raise awareness and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stimulate demand among the business community and; • promote inclusive use in local city neighbourhoods. 	CM
19 a	Update: On target. ERDF Letter of Offer for the project has been received. Awareness seminars are being delivered for the project. A tender for delivery of the broadband mentor support for businesses closes on 24th October with contract award anticipated by end November.	CM
20	Continue to work with DSD to develop and commission a City Centre regeneration strategy and investment plan in line with the Belfast City Masterplan and Local Government Reform.	KS
20 a	Update: On Target – Draft document to be brought before Members in Quarter 3 following the consultation on the initial proposals for the city centre development opportunities which were launched at the Belfast: Future City Conference in June 2014 and the ongoing engagement with key stakeholders in the interim.	KS
21	Improve and develop the city markets at St. George's and Smithfield in the context of supporting tourism and small businesses.	CC
21 a	Update: On target. We continue to work to improve the markets. Recently St George's won the National Lottery Award for best Heritage project. This is the second major award this year and third time this year we have been a finalist in a national award. The review of staffing, overtime and agency staff arrangements in the market in response to feedback from traders and in line with the recommendations from Strategic review of St George's is due to be complete and a report brought back to Committee in December 2014.	CC
23	Directly create jobs by working with local partners to deliver targeted employability initiatives across the city including HARTE and the Belfast	CM

	Enterprise Academy.	
23 a	Update: Original programme on-target. Belfast Enterprise Academy will begin again in October 2014.	CM
24	Work with partners to deliver a city-wide employability and skills strategy and action plan.	CM
24 a	Update: On target, procurement process underway to appoint contractor to deliver employability and skills strategy and action plan.	CM
25	Provide targeted business support interventions through a series of workshops and 1-2-1 mentoring, to improve business competitiveness and productivity and to generate business efficiencies.	CM
25 a	Update: On target. Business development support provided through the Go for Growth programme which offers 1-2-1 mentoring and workshops to increase business competitiveness and growth. To date 114 businesses are being supported through this programme. A series of workshops and enterprise events have been arranged for October and November as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week – further details can be found at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/gew .	CM
26	Review the city wide retail support plan .	CM
26 a	Update: On target. The Start Up Retail Programme will begin in October with a Sales Development Programme for food/craft/retail starting in late October. Ten traders groups have availed of Area Development Support. Support for the retail sector will be reviewed in February 2015 as agreed by Development Committee.	CM
27	Support the introduction of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) .	CM
27 a	Update: On target. A retail forum meeting will be held in mid-October where an update on BIDs will be provided. In June 2014 the committee agreed to provide funding in the sum of £45,000, over a two-year period, to meet the costs associated with the employment of a Business Manager to oversee BCCM's BID pilot project	CM
28	Support initiatives to increase awareness of Council tendering opportunities and build capacity among Belfast companies to tender for public procurement opportunities.	CM
28 a	Update: On target. Wave three of the Smarter Procurement Programme has commenced. To date 57 companies have participated. Over 180 individuals have also attended procurement workshops to increase their awareness of councils tendering opportunities.	CM
29	Support the development of a social clause policy and support implementation through council contracts.	CP
29 a	Update: Off target. A draft policy was presented to SP&R Committee in September for consideration. This was broadly agreed on the basis that Members would be given time to give feedback before the policy is released for consultation and equality screening. The consultant is now producing detailed guidance to accompany the policy. In the meantime, the Council continues to apply the approach used by the Construction Industry Forum (CIFNI).	CP

30	Deliver a programme of events at the Waterfront and Ulster Hall .	JCP
30 a	Update: On target. We continue to deliver a diverse programme of events at both venues. Other achievements include the Waterfront winning the tender to host the annual graduation ceremony for the South Eastern Regional College (SERC) until 2018 inclusive. Upcoming events include The Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) Annual Patient Safety Conference, the return of the Ulster Hall Organic Lunches to let people hear the hall's iconic Mulholland Grand Organ in October and November and the Ulster Hall will also be welcoming a number of events as part of Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's.	JCP
31	Develop culture and arts by investing approximately £2M in cultural and artistic activities such as the 'City of Festivals' and Creative Legacies.	BJ
31 a	Update: On target. We have invested over £2m in arts and heritage projects, including £585,000 through the flagship Creative and Cultural Belfast fund, which supports bold, ambitious projects that foster social inclusion through the arts. City of Festivals and Creative Legacies are now complete. It is anticipated that funded activity will reach an audience of over 2 million, engage nearly 200,000 participants and support over 700 jobs. However, in-year cuts to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's budget may impact on overall performance against targets set out in the Cultural Framework.	BJ
32	Deliver Council's contribution to major events – including the Giro 2014 and preparing for Tall Ships 2015 plus the annual programme of events.	GC
32 a	Update: On target. The overall annual events programme has to date been delivered on time and budget. In May, Belfast successfully hosted the Giro d'Italia 2014 and Council is awaiting final economic data on the impact of the event from NITB. Initial feedback indicates this event was highly successful with nearly 370,000 coming out to see the event in Belfast and NI. Preparations are also underway for Tall Ships 2015. A limited fixed life delivery company has been established to deliver this project with Chair and Deputy Chair of Development represented. To date all major funding has been agreed with the significant exception of NITB's £600,000. NITB have indicated that they are not currently in a position to provide this resource due to overall budgetary freezes within the NI Executive.	GC
33	Develop the Integrated Tourism Strategy and action plan.	BJ
33 a	Update: We are slightly behind the original target date but the strategy will be delivered this year. Following a presentation and feedback from Members of the Development Committee, a first draft is to be presented to the Shadow SP&R Committee later this month. The draft will be amended with any feedback prior to going to public consultation. While this new strategy is being finalised, we are continuing to deliver on research, product development and marketing as per the objectives in the previous framework.	BJ
34	Market Belfast by supporting the marketing and visitor servicing activities of the Visit Belfast (VB) .	BJ
34 a	Update: On target. The Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit continues to work closely with Visit Belfast. Visit Belfast has been a key stakeholder in the draft Integrated Tourism Strategy, which includes recommendations to change and improve the working relationship.	BJ

35	Develop Belfast's cultural offer and deliver actions within the Integrated Cultural strategy and action plan.	BJ
35 a	Update: On target. A number of priority actions are being or will be delivered under the themes of the Cultural Framework. These include: Strengthen the sector - training and mentoring to cultural organisations diversify their funding and earn income where appropriate; sector support for festivals and visual arts; Attracting audiences - a report recommending a marketing and advocacy campaign is to be presented to October Committee; Literary Belfast "Get Belfast reading" campaign, encouraging shared reading and literacy; and Inspiring communities including City of Festivals; Creative Legacies; Creative and Cultural Belfast. However, in-year cuts to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's budget may impact on overall performance against targets set out in the Cultural Framework.	BJ
People and Communities		
36	Deliver the Renewing the Routes Programme 2012-16.	KS
36 a	Update: On target. Initial delays have been absorbed in a revised programme for delivery in the current financial year. Works on the delayed routes have been completed.	KS
38	Support plans to restore and revitalise the Lagan Canal Corridor .	BJ
38 a	Update: We continue to progress the development of the Lock 3 Stranmillis project through the Council's Property and Projects Department. An economic appraisal has been undertaken and a preliminary environmental assessment is underway as part of the pre-conditions for planning. The Lagan Canal Trust is pursuing the development of a virtual "Waterways College" and is investigating the potential to move premises from Oxford Island Nature Reserve to Navigation House in Lisburn.	BJ
39	Delivery Phase 2 of Hannahstown Rural Development programme application.	KS
39 a	Update: On Target – opening carried out in the summer and the final claim is being prepared.	KS
42	Develop an integrated approach to dealing with elements of poverty , including a mechanism to bring together key players from across the city as identified at the civic forum on poverty	CP
42 a	Update: On target. Following the Lord Mayor's Civic Forum on poverty in 2014, a 'challenge document' is being developed which will summarise the discussion and key challenges facing the city, taking account of the opportunities presented through Local Government Reform. This work will form an important element in the emerging community plan and outcomes framework for the city.	CP
52	Local Government Reform (LGR) – Service Convergence/ Transition plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the department for the LGR boundary extension by designing and delivering a budget and transition plan for services and resources merging across the new council area on 1st April 2015. This will include the effective transfer of assets and liabilities from Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council. • Develop and implement a revised Community Grant Programme. 	CT

	<p>Community Planning:</p> <p>Support the council's preparations for the new duty of community planning to enable the council to have commenced the community planning process by April 2015. Key strands of this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and planning support to create a city wide community planning framework that integrates the councils new regeneration powers and; • Contributing to the development of a shared data hub to support data sharing amongst key partners. 	
52 a	<p>Update: LGR & Service Convergence:</p> <p>On target. Services are continuing to proactively prepare for LGR & Service Convergence. This is particularly challenging for Community Service and key aspects of this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for Departmental representation on the SC Panel. • Co-ordination of our Service Convergence Plan in line with corporate guidance. • Compliance with the estimates process. • Engaging appropriately with our counterparts in LCC & CBC to ensure effective transitional plans are in place. • Co-ordinating engagement events with the community sector i.e. The Meet and Greet event held on the 8/10/14. A cross council event with 80 participants from the transferring areas. • Transfer of Urban- Regeneration & Community Development <p><i>Develop and implement a revised Community Grant Programme:</i></p> <p>Completed: A revised Community Development Grant Aid Programme has been finalised and an open call process closed in July 2014. Officers are currently assessing the applications received to those programmes and recommendations will be made to committee during November and December.</p> <p><i>Community Planning:</i></p> <p>On-going engagement with the key officers responsible for Community Planning and the development of key strategies is being undertaken within the context of the community planning process.</p>	CT
43	Resource support for Community Development local activity	CT
44 a	<p>On target. We are on target to deliver over 70,000 volunteering hours for the year and our community centres are continuing to deliver local programmes with an average facility usage of 70%.</p> <p>The Summer scheme programmes were successfully delivered. The detailed results of the evaluation are currently being collated, however the headline results are that £192,000 was awarded to 82 summer scheme programmes at which 7,587 children attended. Officers are currently assessing applications for grant funding and recommendations will be made to Committee during November and December.</p>	CT
46	Deliver a coherent inter agency and inter departmental approach to working with the Traveller community .	CT
46	Update: Ongoing, the Traveller Forum meets on a quarterly basis. In support of the fifth annual Traveller Pride Week (Monday 16 to Friday 20 June), we ran a	CT

a	scheme to highlight some of the obstacles that Travellers face. In particular, we produced profiles to introduce people to some of Belfast's Travelling community and give an insight into their lives.	
47	Children and young people (CYP).	CT
47 a	On target: We are currently in the year 1 testing phase of the CYP framework, which will allow us to review and make any necessary changes to the framework. We continue to ensure that the Council is compliant with its duties relating to child protection. We are continuing to deliver play services across the city. In addition, the CYP unit through its Play service provided over 5000 opportunities through its summer programme this year. The new Youth Forum has also been recruited onto a two year programme and we are currently running various induction programmes to determine the work streams for the Forum. This year we have recruited two young people from the traveller community.	CT
Governance & Risk		
53	Ensure compliance with all corporate process requirements including, audit reports, WIRES, risk management, IIP, etc.	DO
53 a	Update: On target with all corporate process requirements. We are currently implementing the MKInsights system with regard to the management of risk across the department.	DO
Financial Planning		
54	Implement a coordinated approach to grant management through the Grant Unit.	DO
54 a	Update: On target. Open calls to the Corporate Small Grants Fund Tranche 2 14/15 and Community Development Revenue, Capacity and Advice Grants Funds for 15/16 all closed to agreed deadlines in July 2014. All eligibility checks complete. Financial appraisals and assessments are ongoing. The Corporate Grants Management System was successfully procured. System design, build and testing is ongoing and due to be implemented with on-line applications to the Small Grants Fund for 15/16 in November 2014.	DO
Planning & Performance		
55	Use, promote and support evidence based planning via the use of CityStats and other local information.	CP
55 a	Update: On target. We are continuing to update the database and provide support and training to help services make use of the available data and analysis tools. Analysis and information is being provided on an ongoing basis to support the preparations for Local Government Reform, particularly in relation to the enhanced geographic area of the Council and the development of the evidence base for the emerging community planning process. Most recently we have supported the development of the Economic Strategy, Tourism Strategy, City Centre Regeneration Framework, a mapping exercise for children and young people support across the city and a specific research piece for creative industries.	CP

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Council Support for Employability – European Social Fund
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the overall strategic aim of the European Social Fund (ESF) is to help reduce economic inactivity and increase workforce skills by promoting access to employment, social inclusion and skills for growth.
1.2	In Northern Ireland, the programme is administered by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). Funding is allocated by means of an open call for projects. Successful projects attract funding of up to 65% of the total project cost and project promoters are expected to find the remaining 35% funding from other sources. Currently, Belfast City Council provides match funding for five projects and supports its own programme (HARTE) – which is delivered by a partnership of local training providers.
1.3	At the September Committee meeting, members were advised of the upcoming call for projects and noted that there was a potential that the council would be significantly over-subscribed for match-funding requests. The committee agreed to ten guiding principles proposed to steer future council decisions concerning support for employability and skills development activities. These were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for a citywide approach 2. Need to consider targeted interventions and differentiated approaches 3. Partnership between Belfast City Council, DEL and others 4. Support is needed for older males, lone parents, persons with disabilities and minority ethnic communities 5. The role of the private sector is critical 6. Need to avoid duplication/local competition 7. Need to improve data sources and information sharing 8. Need to focus on outcomes and tracking progress 9. Employability and skills cannot be considered as stand-alone interventions 10. Need for transparency in decision-making around funding.

1.4	It was resolved by members that a report would be tabled to October Committee to help agree priority areas for council intervention in advance of ESF opening for applications in November 2014. It was also noted that there was an opportunity for the council to make its own submission for funding and, if successful in drawing down resources, we would then commission service delivery to address the key challenges highlighted in the research report presented to members at the September committee meeting.
1.5	Members acknowledged that, to date, the council has had limited resources to support employability initiatives. However successive reports have shown that economic inactivity is one of the most significant challenges for the city. As a result it is critical that the council gives consideration to how it can make a difference in this field.
1.6	The previous report suggested that the council resources could be substantially enhanced by accessing funding available as part of the transfer to council of responsibility for community development and regeneration powers from the Department of Social Development (DSD). At present, DSD provides match funding of around £700,000 to ESF projects in Belfast. At the August Transition Committee it was resolved that the council would agree in principle to retain this budget for employability and skills activity pending a further paper outlining the specifics of any aligned programme.
1.7	While there remains some uncertainty around budget transfer in advance of April 2015, and although there is a chance that the transferring budget will be reduced in line with overall departmental budget cuts, there could still be in the range of £600,000 available through transferring budgets to allocate towards employability initiatives. This would be in addition to a smaller budget allocation available within the Economic Development Unit budget (subject to approval of current estimates).

2	Key Issues
2.1	Members are reminded that previous presentations to the committee have noted that there are currently 44 ESF projects in the Belfast City Council area, with a further 18 projects based in Belfast but serving areas beyond the council boundary. This represents a cumulative financial allocation of almost £60million.
2.2	While many of the projects are very successful in their own right, it is extremely difficult to measure the overall impact of the intervention and there is a significant risk of duplication of effort while opportunities for collaboration and economies of scale are not necessarily explored. However there is a balance to be struck as many of these projects are looking at localised challenges and trying to develop sustainable solutions to those. Given the nature and scale of the challenge in many of those communities, it is clear that there is a need for some local flexibility.
2.3	The ten principles previously agreed by the Committee represent an opportunity to ensure that the council's intervention is measurable, targeted and aligned to other interventions that both the council and other partners will be undertaking. While the need for a city-wide approach is critical, the council recognises that this does not mean a generic approach across the city. It requires a degree of local flexibility within an overall support programme that has some visibility and

	consistency of approach, regardless of where the provision is based.
2.4	DEL is currently working on its call for projects which will be launch in mid-November 2014. In preparation for the calls, the department has organised a series of road shows in October and November to provide potential applicants with information on the ESF programme and its priority areas, along with details of their application process. Projects will be assessed by a range of selection panels and it is expected that approvals will be issued in late January or early February 2015. Projects will have a three year life span and match funding must be re-confirmed annually.
2.5	Although ESF is only one funding programme for employability and skills development, and its focus is primarily on those furthest from the labour market, it nevertheless presents a significant opportunity to make a positive impact on this target group – the numbers of which remain stubbornly high, particularly in some communities across the city.
2.6	The recent spate of job announcements in the financial and business services sector and IT industry are indicative of the future direction of the economy in Belfast. It will become increasingly service-sector focused, with the greatest job growth expected in administration, hospitality, IT and financial services. While many of these are high paid, highly skilled jobs, there are a range of entry level employment opportunities that provide an access point for individuals into the world of work. The challenge is to encourage employers to look at training opportunities for existing staff – with resources currently available from DEL for this activity – in order to move people through the grades and improve their employment status. This has the added impact of creating further entry-level opportunities.
2.7	In addition to the new investment announcements, there are a range of planned physical investments in the city in the coming years, as set out in the city centre regeneration and investment plan. It will be important to consider how any project can support the development and delivery of these schemes, thereby supporting not only the physical development of the city but ensuring greater social cohesion by putting in place interventions which will improve access to employment opportunities for those furthest from the labour market.
2.8	Research on skills in Belfast suggests that skills matter: the more highly skilled you are, the more likely you are to be in work. With just over 10% of future jobs expected to require no or low skills, there is a need to ensure that individuals can secure vocationally-relevant skills development support to improve their employment prospects.
2.9	Belfast is a micro business economy – with over 80% of companies employing 10 people or less. Conversely, less than 1% of the city's businesses can be considered as a large business (250+ employees). However these businesses support over half of the total employee numbers in the city – whereas the micro businesses provide 10% of overall employment. It is clear that differentiated approaches are required to employer engagement and, while many are actively involved in employability support initiatives, others are more reticent to accommodate work placements or consider ring-fenced employment opportunities. Belfast City Council – as a key employer in the city – has a role to play in encouraging businesses to be more flexible in providing opportunities for those people trying to get into employment. The success of our outreach

	<p>programme profiled through the Investment Programme has been widely acknowledged and puts us in a good position to encourage other employers to consider these approaches.</p>
2.10	<p>Taking into account the challenges and opportunities, and bearing in mind the relatively limited resources available to the council at this point, it is proposed that the council considers making an application directly to DEL for a citywide employability and skills development programme for the target groups identified within the ESF programme. This application will be based on the significant employability and skills research available to the council – with further work underway at present.</p>
2.11	<p>It is suggested that the council role is not that of a delivery partner – rather as a strategic oversight body ensuring focus on the areas and target groups requiring most support and ensuring alignment with complementary support provision (by us and other partners). Equally, we can provide a role in terms of employer engagement as well as considering specific and additional opportunities within our own organisation. From a governance perspective, we can ensure appropriate project management and compliance and can access the expertise of relevant financial and economic development staff.</p>
2.12	<p>Project delivery is likely to involve a consortium of partners from across the city with a range of specialisms, including community engagement, skills development, personal development, technical skills and training delivery. The overall objective will be to maximise the opportunities of finding employment for those engaged in the programme and to improve their experience of the engagement. This may include signposting them to further provision beyond the programme.</p>
2.13	<p>Members are reminded that ESF is a relatively small programme and represents only 7% of DEL's overall programme budget. In addition, there are commitments to a range of other schemes across the city through mainstream DEL provision (apprenticeships, further and higher education, Training for Success, Steps to Success) as well as employability projects supported through the Social Investment Fund (SIF). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belfast North Zone: employment fuel poverty project (£2m) - Belfast South Zone: employment programme training in catering, hospitality, retail and IT (£2.2m) - Belfast West Zone: integrated employment programme supporting people back to mainstream employment (£3.3m)
2.14	<p>There is also an employability project in Belfast East Zone which is awaiting approval and there are a number of other projects across the zones that will have an impact on employability support including childcare and family support and early years interventions.</p>
2.15	<p>The council ESF project needs to take account of existing provision and support only interventions that can add value to the current offer, focusing on securing positive employment outcomes, in line with the guiding principles approved at September Development Committee.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Under the current NR Programme, DSD currently provides around £700,000 to match-fund 11 employability related projects part financed by the European Social Fund (ESF). If this funding transfers, it is likely to be subject to budget cuts, in line with other departmental transfers. At present, there is an indicative funding allocation of around £200,000 within the EDU budget estimates – which are still subject to approval.
3.2	Given that this funding will not be incurred until the 2015/2016 financial year, budgetary decisions will be subject to consideration by the Shadow Council.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Equality and Good Relations considerations will also be factored into the project application and will be monitored as part of the application process (in line with DEL requirements).

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the pending call for proposals under the ESF programme - Endorse the council's proposed commissioning approach, based on extensive research and taking account of specific local needs while ensuring city-wide coverage and focusing on maximising positive outcomes for participants.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Timeline: February 2015 report on outcome of funding application Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>DEL – Department for Employment and Learning DSD – Department of Social Development ESF – European Social Fund</p>	

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	City Centre Business Information Point
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager, ext 3805

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that, in September 2013, approval was given to establish a pilot City Centre Business Information Point. The pilot was intended to provide a dedicated information resource in the city centre to deal with business start and development enquiries and to link businesses with council services including Building Control and Environmental Health as well as the suite of programmes provided by the Economic Development Unit. In addition the facility was to provide a city centre location to facilitate workshops, outreach development and provide meeting space for businesses and stakeholders.
1.2	The City Centre Business Information Point was launched under the name of City Business Hub in November 2013 and is situated in 28 Castle Lane, in a previously vacant retail unit. The facility is managed by Ortus, a Belfast based enterprise agency, whose corporate objectives are to actively promote sustainable social and economic regeneration through provision of property, business development initiatives and a business advice service. Services delivered at the hub are delivered in collaboration with the council, primarily through the Economic Development Unit.
1.3	<p>The original outputs of the pilot were to achieve 1,000 enquiries and deliver 10 business events through the hub, across a twelve month period (1st Oct 2013 – 31st Oct 2014). According to Ortus' recent progress report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1792 businesses and individuals have visited the City Business Hub to utilise its services, of these 949 have requested 1-2-1 support (provided by hub staff); – 40% were seeking information on exploring enterprise and start up support, 20% were seeking growth and 22% were looking to access sources of finance and financial advice; – Over 130 events have been held in the hub attended by 840 individuals; – Over 1,100 individuals currently receive digital information and communication on the services of the hub and support offered by a range of stakeholders, including Belfast City Council.

1.4	As the one year pilot period for the hub concludes at the end of October 2014, a review of progress has been undertaken with a view to considering future engagement in the initiative. Officers have engaged with Ortus who are keen to continue the project beyond the pilot phase. However, given the overheads associated with this, they will not be in a position to do so without some external support.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	Members will be aware that, under the Reform of Local Government, Belfast City Council will be responsible for business start-up provision across the city, as part of their existing economic development functions. Officers are currently considering the options available for the delivery of enterprise support, in line with the wider economic development work programme, for the post-April 2015 period. While the Transition Committee already agreed that Invest NI should see out the existing contract for the programme – which runs to October 2015 – a new programme will be required after this date and consideration needs to be given to both the content and the delivery channels.
2.2	Belfast City Council's contribution to the project over the 12 month pilot (1 st Nov 2013 – 31 st October) was £39,000 against a total project cost of £83,420. The performance of the City Business Hub to date has exceeded original target levels. Referrals to Local Enterprise Agencies account for the largest proportion of referrals from the Hub followed by Flex Language Services, Belfast City Council Services, Invest NI and Belfast City Centre Management. Further work will be undertaken to improve referral rates and monitor follow-up of referrals to measure economic impact.
2.3	A review of the business start levels, reported through the Regional Start Initiative – the mainstream enterprise programme currently delivered by Invest Northern Ireland – suggests that levels have remained relatively static over the period since the establishment of the City Business Hub. However we are aware that the current start-up programme has significant shortcomings in terms of the business advisor time allocated to the business and this may account for the significant volume of clients seeking 1-2-1 support from hub staff. It is, of course, the case that the hub is only one of a range of referral points to the programme and, likewise, there may have been other factors impacting on individuals' inclination and/or desire to start a business.
2.4	In addition, the numbers attending events at the hub have been significant and this helps create a positive perspective on enterprise and business start. At present, the meeting space is provided free-of-charge to those supporting events related to business start and growth so there is an opportunity to look at securing some income from rental of the meeting space.
2.5	Lessons learned from the previous year's engagement in the City Business Hub have provided a significant level of experience in terms of what works when engaging with would-be and existing businesses as well as finding out what support businesses need and how an effective signposting service should work in the city, in order to maximise the benefits for the clients and improve their experience of the service.
2.6	In anticipation of the new approach, and in order to ensure continuity of service, it is proposed that the council continues to support the City Business Hub to April 2015, in line with the timetable for the transfer of the enterprise functions to the

	<p>council. At this point, it is expected that officers will have undertaken further work to identify the optimal format and content for the future enterprise support activities to be offered by the council. This is likely to involve further testing of potential approaches by using companies engaging with the hub. In the interim, targets will be agreed around issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Businesses supported – Users of the centre for business events – Companies referred to other sources of support (e.g. other enterprise agencies, other council services, other partners).
2.7	Efforts will also be made to measure the impact and added-value of the service in terms of improvements to businesses' awareness of key issues impacting on their growth.
2.8	Consideration will also be given to targeting specific areas of the city where enterprise levels are particularly low to raise the profile of the service and to encourage access to the facilities.
2.9	A draft budget for the five month period to April 2015 is attached. This shows an indicative cost breakdown of around £23,370 by the Council; £25,790 from Ortus and £3,915 to be found from other partners (see Appendix 1). The Council does not have any title interest in the City Business Hub premises and support to the project is by way of funding agreement.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	If approved by Committee, the funding requirement from Belfast City Council to April 2015 will be £23,370. This will be met from within existing EDU budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality of good relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the continuation of the existing business support pilot with Ortus at the City Business Hub, subject to a legal agreement and associated targets being agreed between the parties.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Timeline: Proposed work to continue until April 2015 Reporting Officer: Colin McCabrey</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGR – Local Government Reform • EDU – Economic Development Unit 	

8	Documents Attached
<p>Cost breakdown for the period 1st November to 31st March 2015.</p>	

Annex: Additional Budget Information

Below is a forecast of City Business Hub costs for a 5 month period from 1st November 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Item	Cost to BCC	Cost to Ortus	Other funding required	Total
Fit out of Window Insulation and Sound proofing (Conference Room) (funding tbc)			£2,940	£2,940
Property maintenance and refresh costs		£2,000		£2,000
Display and Signage (Conference Room) (funding tbc)			£975	£975
Staff Members (3) City Business Hub Manager City Business Hub Administration Ortus Business Advisor	£16,570	£9,440		£26,010
Heat/Electricity/Light/Waste Management/Printing	£ 3,500	£200		£3,700
IT Support and maintenance		£750		£750
Insurance		£3,000		£3,000
Rent *		£10,000*		£10,000
PR, Marketing and Promotional Materials	£3,300			£3,300
One year celebration press event		£400		£400
Total	£23,370	£25,790	£3,915	£53,075

* Maximum rental figure subject to negotiations and tenure agreement with the unit landlord. Comparisons of sq footage rental costs in Castle Lane being evaluated to validate the profiled rent. Any decrease in rental agreed with the landlord by Ortus will be reflected proportionately in the Council's funding contribution.



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Digital DNA Summit – request for sponsorship
Date:	21 st October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager, ext 3805

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that a key priority for the Council is development of the Creative, Digital and Technology sectors within the city. To continue to support this high growth sector, the Council supported the Digital DNA Summit in 2013, which was aimed at exploring trends and opportunities in digital media technology and disseminating best practice on how to promote business growth within and outside Northern Ireland.
1.2	Digital DNA was founded in 2013 by the MBA Association of Ireland, in partnership with organisations such as the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, Invest NI and the University of Ulster. The aim of Digital DNA is to provide businesses, organisations and individuals an insight into the role digital technology can play in their success
1.3	The event brought together over 270 local small businesses, predominantly those working in the IT, software and digital sectors. Following the success of the inaugural event in 2013, Digital DNA is hosting a second digital summit in Titanic Belfast and Belfast City Hall over a full week from 3 rd – 7 th November 2014.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The week long summit will include networking events with CultureTech and a tourism conference at the Crumlin Road Gaol which will examine the role of technology in the tourism sector in relation to customer experience, attracting customers and delivering a quality service.
2.2	Organisers have requested a funding contribution from Council of £7,500 compared to 2013 when £2,500 was awarded by the Council. Given budget pressures and the short lead-in time for associated benefits to be accrued from the sponsorship engagement, it is considered that a contribution of £2,500 is

	proportionate to the economic profile the Council will achieve from the 2014 event.
2.3	Speakers confirmed to date include representatives from Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Twitter and Deloitte Digital and the summit will be based on the core themes of informing and inspiring young people (13 – 18yrs old) to understand the opportunities that technology can present and showcasing local SMEs.
2.4	It is recommended that the council supports Digital DNA 2014, with the aim of presenting and promoting the council's super connected cities project and voucher scheme. The timing of the event can also assist the Council in further articulating and evidencing support from within the sector for the CQ Creative Hub development within the city. Equally, it can support work to develop the hospitality sector within Belfast and can link with other activities that the council is supporting to encourage young people to consider careers within the creative and digital sector.
2.5	As part of the sponsorship package, the council will also be able to avail of a number of free places at the event and will benefit from the positive media and communications associated with the event.
2.6	Digital DNA is one of a range of conferences relating to the creative and digital sector that take place in Belfast each year. While they are all very positive in their own right, the competing demands that they place on council budgets when sponsorship is requested means that it is difficult to take a strategic approach to our engagement in these events. It is therefore proposed that a review of the relevant events is undertaken with a view to taking a more strategic and targeted approach to supporting these activities. This may mean some prioritisation of activities and/or establishment of eligibility criteria in order to secure funding and to determine the appropriate level of support required.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	£2,500 from the existing Economic Development Unit budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations at this stage.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider sponsorship of the Digital DNA event at a cost of £2,500. - Note the proposal to undertake a review of the economic impact of engaging in respective events and to consider eligibility criteria in order to determine whether the sponsorship represents value for money and is appropriate for the council.

6	Key to abbreviations
	CDI – Creative Digital Industry CQ – Cathedral Quarter



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	City Marketing Activity
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that in the lead up to the Christmas period in 2012 and 2013, the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce approached the Council for emergency funding to support a promotional campaign to overcome negative perceptions of the city which had built up around Belfast on the Move implementation and protests the following year.
1.2	In November 2013, Members asked that there would be no repeat of last minute requests and that funding for such initiatives be adequately planned for. As a result a budget of £70k has been allocated to support this activity within this year's Development department budgets.
1.3	Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC) is currently working on a city marketing campaign for the Christmas period, in conjunction with Visit Belfast, Castlecourt and Victoria Square.

2	Key Issues
2.1	While footfall and spend figures have improved slightly in Belfast over the past year, the economic climate is still relatively precarious. Retailers, the hospitality trade and attractions are keen to ensure that there is active promotion of the city as a key retail, hospitality and visitor destination, given the competition which will come from other destinations in the crucial Christmas period.
2.2	The proposed Christmas campaign – while still under development – is likely to include a range of promotional activities such as online promotion, television advertising, partnerships with Translink and other carriers and promotional events at key locations. The principal aim will be to maximise footfall and consumer spend in the key trading period in the run-up to Christmas.
2.3	In addition to promoting the shopping offer in the city, there will be a focus on encouraging people to stay longer – availing of Belfast's vibrant hospitality offer

	and visitor attractions, and increasing the spend in the city. The campaign will focus not only on the city centre but will also include images and information on other parts of the city. In this regard, it will support the locally-based action plans being developed by trader groups across the city – most of which include a series of Christmas events and activities.
2.4	The four partners – namely BCTC, Castlecourt, Victoria Square and Visit Belfast – have already allocated a total of £130,000 towards the campaign. This along with a proposed Council allocation of £70k would allow for a campaign totalling £200k.
2.5	Members are reminded that, when previous requests for marketing support of this nature have been presented to the committee, there has been concern that activities will be piecemeal and that, because of the lateness of the request, the expenditure will have limited impact. Given that there has already been some development work undertaken on this campaign – and that there is significant commitment from the private sector partners – it is proposed that this represents a more consolidated approach from city partners that will have a greater opportunity of meeting its objectives in terms of enhanced visitor numbers and additional spend.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	It is anticipated that the full campaign will cost £200,000. £130,000 has already been secured from private sector partners. £70,000 has been allocated within Departmental budgets to support the campaign.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the proposed city marketing campaign for the pre-Christmas period - Agree to match funding of £70,000 from council towards the campaign.

6	Decision Tracking
Timeline: February 2015	Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

7	Key to Abbreviations
BCTC – Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce	

Agenda Item 7

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Agenda Item 8

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Presentation to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee on the Arts in Working-Class Communities
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Janice Smith, Tourism, Culture and Arts Development Officer, ext 3646

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As Members will recall, in February 2014, the Development Committee approved the Council's response to the Culture, Arts and Leisure (CAL) Committee's Inquiry in to the inclusion in the arts of working-class communities.
1.2	<p>The terms of reference of the inquiry are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate the accessibility of the arts in Northern Ireland to working class communities and to ascertain the key challenges and barriers to the involvement of those communities in the arts; - Examine the outreach activity of our arts venues and bodies with respect to how they make a meaningful contribution to social inclusion within working class communities; including the degree to which they can help tackle particular social issues; - Identify any examples of good practice in accessibility and outreach work – either within Northern Ireland or elsewhere – which could usefully be replicated by arts venues and bodies here; and - Make recommendations for improvements in policies, delivery mechanisms and collaboration among key stakeholders which will maximise the potential of our arts venues and bodies to address social inclusion issues in both urban and rural working class communities and across communities in Northern Ireland.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The CAL Committee has received 32 written responses and heard oral evidence from a range of stakeholders, including positive feedback. This includes feedback on the Council's work in supporting community engagement and access to the arts. Belfast City Council has now been asked to present to the CAL Committee on 13 November in order to elaborate on its response and outline some of the key actions in which the council is involved.
2.2	Members are asked to consider this request and to agree that the Director of Development and/or his nominated representatives deliver a presentation to the CAL Committee on the inclusion in the arts of working-class communities, based on council activity and experience in this field.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications attached to this report.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: Note the contents of this report Agree that the Director of Development and/or his nominated representatives deliver a presentation to the CAL Committee on the inclusion in the arts of working-class communities.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CAL: Culture, Arts and Leisure	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Festivals Fund
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Brian Johnston, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager ex 3586

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council accepted the commission from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to administer the Community Festivals Fund in the Belfast area. The fund is 50 per cent funded through DCAL and 50 per cent through Council revenue budgets. At the Development Committee in August 2008, Members agreed to delegate the authority to award grants under this fund to the Director of Development.
1.2	The Community Festivals Fund invites applications from arts, heritage and community organisations that are planning a community festival in Belfast. The primary aim of the fund is to increase the capacity of festival providers, and it also supports the cost of festival programming. The maximum grant available for each festival is £10,000.
1.3	DCAL offered BCC funding of £72,500 for the Community Festivals Fund in 2014/15. This is a slight reduction from 2013/14, when their offer was £75,300.
1.4	The current year's funding is supporting a total of 37 local festivals taking place across the city during this current financial year. It is projected that these festivals will engage up to 41,655 participants and reach an audience of approximately 425,060.
1.5	The fund was heavily oversubscribed and there is no money left in the Community Festivals Fund budget for 2014/15.

2	Key Issues
2.1	DCAL's contribution to the Community Festivals Fund 2015/16 is subject to the outcome of the central government budget consultation.
2.2	The allocation of grants from DCAL for CFF across NI has in the past been worked out in the context of population size and areas of deprivation.

2.2	The expanded Council boundary may increase the level of offer. Confirmation of DCAL's offer is expected by February 2015.
2.3	The CFF 2015/16 programme is due to open in November for applications. No funding for festivals in 2015/16 will be approved prior to confirmation of an offer from DCAL and ratification of the 2015/16 budget estimates.
2.4	Match funding will be included in the Development Department's budget estimates for 2015/16.
2.5	The Community Festivals Fund will be administered by the Central Grants Unit and the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Match funding will be included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's draft budget estimates for 2015/16.
3.2	Human Resources will be covered within the work programmes of the Central Grants Unit and the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree to accept funding from DCAL to administer CFF for 2015/16.
5.2	Authority is delegated to the Director of Development to award grants under this grant stream.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DCAL - Department of Culture Arts and Leisure BCC – Belfast City Council CFF – Community Festivals Fund	



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	NI Bicycle Strategy response & Bank Square Access
Date:	21 st October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Keith Sutherland, Urban Development Manager, ext 3578, Anne Doherty, Planning & Transport Officer, ext 3477

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	NI Bicycle Strategy The Department for Regional Development (DRD) has prepared a Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland which sets out, over the 25 year horizon, how they plan to make Northern Ireland a cycling community.
1.2	The Draft Strategy document outlines the vision for cycling in Northern Ireland and, at a high level how they intend to achieve this vision. The consultation period will run from 27 th August to the 21 st November 2014 and a public consultation event will be held in Belfast on the 4 th November (10am to 2.00pm) in the Radisson Blu Hotel in the Gasworks. The draft response to the Bicycle Strategy is attached in Appendix 1, for consideration.
1.3	Bank Square Access Transport NI received a request to relax taxi access on Chapel Lane to service the businesses in the area following the completion of the DSD Bank Square public realm scheme. Bank Square and Chapel Lane are currently part of the overall city centre pedestrian zone with no access permitted except for loading and unloading before 11am and after 6pm.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The vision outlined in Draft Bicycle Strategy is as follows: “to establish a cycling culture in Northern Ireland to give people the freedom and confidence to travel by bicycle, and where all road users can safely share space with mutual respect”
2.2	The Department plan on achieving the vision is to first develop this high level strategy which will be followed up with a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound objectives.

2.3	The document identifies a number of key connections between the Departments cycling future and other sectors they are as follows: regeneration, tourism and culture, the local economy, health improvement, environmental, sports and recreation, learning and skills and services and facilities.
2.4	They have outlined a three pillar approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build – Infrastructure, cycle parking and flagship schemes; • Support – supporting measures, safety and security and training mapping; • Promote – marketing campaigns, flagship events and responsible cycling.
2.5	In moving towards the vision the Department have developed four key elements to achieve the vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive network, • inviting places, • safe spaces and • greater numbers.
2.6	In relation to the comprehensive network, it is proposed that it will comprise of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arterial routes, • Quiet routes and • Greenways.
2.7	The document states that it is committed to creating a network of high quality routes. The quiet routes will be less trafficked options for cyclist and Greenways which may be orbital or less direct off road routes. It states that going forward the Department will ensure that provision is more integrated and coherent in nature by providing ‘whole of route’ treatment. In urban areas the Department states that it will develop masterplans to develop urban routes.
2.8	It is suggested that the Council supports the vision for a Bicycle Strategy in Northern Ireland and the Department’s cross sectoral approach to delivering the vision for cycling as outlined in the Strategy. In supporting this work, the Council would recognise that increased levels of cycling in Belfast can have benefits for regeneration, tourism and culture, the local economy, health improvement, environmental, sports and recreation, learning and skills and services and facilities.
2.9	A high level strategy is proposed in the document, which would support the subsequent Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan, which will outline specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound objectives. The Council could support the allocation of a budget and resources and timetable to deliver this plan as this would contribute to other areas of work to improve cycling.
2.10	The three pillar approach to build the infrastructure, provide supporting measure and promote cycling would be welcomed for Belfast. The broad approach is critical as infrastructure alone is not sufficient to increase bicycle trips.
2.11	The Strategy suggests a comprehensive network for the Bicycle which will comprise of arterial routes, quiet routes and greenways. This mixed form of provision would develop a network of routes which provide options for cyclists of various abilities and for commuting as well as leisure with support on work by Council to promote cycling and access.

2.12	For urban areas, the development of suggested cycling masterplans should be welcomed with an emphasis on Belfast as an early priority. The cycling masterplan should consider innovative and high quality measures which are being considered in other cities.
2.13	As the Department will be aware, the Council are currently developing a Public Bike Share Scheme in Belfast. In order to support this scheme there is a need to improve the general cycling infrastructure across the City for current and future users.
2.14	Bank Square access Bank Square and Chapel Lane are currently part of the overall city centre pedestrian zone with no vehicle access permitted except for loading and unloading before 11am and after 6pm. Until recently the PSNI did not strictly enforce vehicle access to this area. The DSD public realm scheme is programmed to be complete by December 2014 and will prevent vehicle access to Bank Square. It is also the intention of DSD to construct rise and fall bollards on Chapel Lane which will control access to Chapel Lane between 11am and 6pm. Service vehicles will be permitted before 11am or after 6pm.
2.15	Local businesses are concerned that enforcement and restrictions on taxi access to Chapel Lane may impact on the night time economy in the Bank Square area and the safety of tourist and visitors to the area at night. The local businesses have requested Transport NI to consider amending the regulations to permit taxi access to Chapel Lane (not Bank Square itself). Due to the rise and fall bollards proposed by DSD on Chapel Lane this will allow taxi access after 6pm in the evening.
2.16	It is suggested that elected members support this proposal as it would provide safe access for people visiting the Bank Square area in the evening without impacting on pedestrian movement during the day.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	No resource implications have been identified.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider the proposed draft response to the DRD Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland in Appendix 1 and if appropriate endorse this as an agreed response. - To consider the proposals on access to Chapel Lane and agree response to be submitted to Transport NI.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
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DRD Department for Regional Development DSD – Department of Social Development

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 - Draft Response Draft Bicycle Strategy for NI August 2014	

Appendix 1

Draft Response to the NI Bicycle Strategy August 2014

The development of a 'Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland' by Department for Regional Development is broadly welcomed by the Council. The Council published a revised Transport Policy in 2008 and a key objective outlined in the policy was "to seek to influence the development of transportation policies and proposals which improve connectivity and encourage modal shift away from the private car to more sustainable forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport".

The Vision

The vision outlined in Draft Bicycle Strategy is as follows "to establish a cycling culture in Northern Ireland to give people the freedom and confidence to travel by bicycle, and where all road users can safely share space with mutual respect" The Council supports the vision for a Bicycle Strategy in Northern Ireland.

The Council recognise that this is a high level strategy and would support the follow up of the Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound objectives. The Council would request detail on the timetable for the production of this plan and the need for commitment for a budget and resources to deliver this plan along with targets.

It is important that the strategy makes reference to how it will be financed and set targets on what the strategy will achieve.

The document identifies a number of key connections between the Departments cycling future and other sectors. They are as follows: regeneration, tourism and culture, the local economy, health improvement, environmental, sports and recreation, learning and skills and services and facilities. The Council supports the Departments cross sectoral approach to delivering the vision for cycling as outlined in the Strategy. The Council recognises that increased levels of cycling in Belfast can have benefits for regeneration, tourism and culture, the local economy, health improvement, environmental, sports and recreation, learning and skills and services and facilities.

Approach

The Council supports the three pillar approach to build the infrastructure, provide supporting measures and promote cycling. The Council would agree that infrastructure alone is not usually sufficient to increase bicycle trips.

Comprehensive Network

The Strategy suggests a comprehensive network for the Bicycle which will comprise of arterial routes, quiet routes and greenways. The Council would support this mixed form of provision to develop a network of routes which provide options for cyclists of various abilities and for commuting as well as leisure.

The issue of applying 'whole of route' treatment is also supported. The current cycle lane provision in the city can be piecemeal and fragmented.

For urban areas the Council would support segregation for cycling on main roads and arterial routes as preferable where traffic volumes are high or speed is high. On the quiet routes it is suggested that a 20mph speed limit is appropriate along with priority for cyclists at junctions.

Urban routes

The Council would support targeting areas with high population densities such as Belfast where there is the greatest potential for increasing the opportunities for residents to switch modes of

travel to cycling for short commuter, school and other journeys.

The Council would strongly support a cycling masterplan to be developed for Belfast as a priority which would consider innovative and high quality measures to match the quality of best practice in Europe. In other areas Authorities are currently trialling innovative cycling infrastructure such as:

- segregation within carriageway, side road crossings and separation methods;
- Dutch style roundabouts;
- Traffic signals for cyclist – high and low level; and
- bus stop by passes.

Other pioneering measures are being considered such as armadillo and planter segregated cycle lanes.

Greenways

On the greenway routes, the Council recommends that consideration is given to the management of different user requirements from the commuter to leisure cyclist. The issue of user security on greenways routes should also be considered.

Education and a code of conduct for users on greenways to ensure users respect each other would be beneficial.

Maintenance

The Council welcomes the inclusion of maintenance of the bicycle infrastructure in the draft strategy, in particular that targets are set to ensure routes are treated for snow and ice.

Safe Spaces for the Bicycle

The Council support the commitment to creating safer and more legible routes in the urban areas. Without safe, practical, and continuous routes in urban areas it is unlikely that the increasing levels of cycling can be sustained.

A legible Network

The Council would support the development of a consistent, uniform signage and design format for the cycling network. The Council would suggest that consideration is given to putting distance and time to cycle on signage.

Respect and understanding

The Council considers the approach to encouraging greater respect and understanding between all users of the transport network as a very important element of the strategy.

In addition to the measures suggested the Council would also include a review of driving test theory and practice, to ensure awareness of cyclists is adequately covered.

Education

The Council would support the need for education to influence the travel behaviour particularly in young people.

A strong behaviour change initiative/campaign targeted for different areas is needed, as areas of deprivation will have different needs/behaviour compared to other areas and most probably be experiencing health inequalities. Motivation and confidence programmes to start cycling should be included in the strategy.

Greater numbers

The Council support the measures suggested to increase the numbers of people travelling by bicycle.

It is noted that public bike hire schemes are mentioned and as the Department will be aware, the Council is currently developing a Public Bike Share scheme in Belfast city centre. A primary objective of the scheme is to provide a sustainable low cost transport alternative for the citizens of Belfast and visitors. The scheme should lead to 'greater numbers' of cyclist in Belfast which is one of the four key elements for achieving the DRD cycling vision. It is suggested that the strategy and delivery plan should identify supporting measures to realise the full benefits on this high profile Active Travel scheme for the city such as improved cycling infrastructure alongside investment in cycle proficiency training for users. In addition, the first phase of the scheme will cover the core city centre of Belfast and it would be desirable to allocate resources to expand the network to areas outside the city centre.

The Public Bike Share Scheme will also target tourists and visitors to the city as a cheap and sustainable mode of transport in the city. Supporting infrastructure such as the provision of secure bicycle parking at appropriate destinations is essential.

Interchange between modes

The Council support the measures identified including secure cycle parking at public transport stations, carriage of bicycles on public transport and the use of folding bikes. Consideration should also be given to the use of Public Bike Share schemes. The Council considers that the Belfast scheme will facilitate and encourage citizens to choose cycling for short trips in the city centre linked to public transport. It proposes that the scheme in Belfast will be used by commuters to cycle from the bus stop, car parks or rail station to workplaces.

Working with Employers

The Council would suggest that the following initiatives are considered:

- Provide National Standards cycle training at zero cost to employers in return for employers releasing staff to attend training as part of the workplace travel plan and staff PDP.
- Occupational Health units to be able to refer staff to National Standards training delivered as part of Health Wise schemes.

Traffic Calming

In addition to traffic calming measures outlined in the draft strategy, the Council suggests that the following initiatives are considered:

- Implement no right turns from oncoming traffic when bus/cycle lanes are in operation.
- Remove breaks in solid white lines in bus/cycle lanes at points where traffic stops to turn right.

New Developments

The Council would support the aspiration to ensure planning policy supports the need to recognise the bicycle as an integral mode of transport. A commitment is needed to ensure that the needs of cyclist are taken into account in the design and implementation of all future development and public realm schemes.

It is suggested that that the Department considers joint investment with other partner organisations i.e. investment in environmental improvement, major capital developments (within Belfast this could include the relocation of the University of Ulster to York Street, Streets Ahead Phase 3, the transformation of leisure facilities, development of the Girdwood site, etc) to work in partnership to maximise the potential benefits of proposals for improved connectivity and cycling.

The impact of significant 'journey generators' on traffic flow and congestion should be considered in developing a network. Density of employment and proximity to employment opportunities provides the opportunity to make significant gains in the number of cyclists, while assisting in solving other negative issues such as congestion, poor air quality, etc.

Environmental Improvement Schemes

The Council supports the strategy's commitment to ensure that the needs of cyclist are taken into account in the design and implementation of all public realm schemes.



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Ainsworth Community Association
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	Cate Taggart Community Development Manager ext 3525
Contact Officer:	Jenny Oliver Community Services Unit Manager ext 3542

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Ainsworth Community Centre, previously located at 117 Mayo Street BT13 3AZ, was managed by Ainsworth Community Association with the premises and land vested in Trustees by virtue of an Assignment of Lease dated 17 January 1975. The Association received revenue and small grant funding from the Council from this date.
1.2	In November 2005 Council approved a Deed of Covenant and Charge by which a payment of £11,000 was awarded to the Association towards the cost of construction of a new build centre. Due to a number of factors full cost funding was not secured and this project did not commence. Subsequent to this the Association ceased to exist.
1.3	In late 2011 an interagency group was established in the Ainsworth area and a public meeting of local residents was held in January 2012 whereby Ainsworth Community Association was reformed and reconstituted.
1.4	This association, supported by the interagency group, are driving forward new plans which aim to regenerate the area specifically in regard to local services and community safety. Interagency membership is made up of PSNI, NIHE, BRO, BCC, local residents and representatives of a number of community organisations within the Greater Shankill area.
1.5	Under this process demolition of the community centre building – significantly deteriorated - was agreed and BRO vested the property and demolition took place mid 2013.
1.6	Council (May 2012) agreed to recoup their capital grant of £11,000 registered under the Deed of Covenant and Charge. This money was returned to council by the Trustees via a clawback agreement in Autumn 2012. Council further agreed that any future request from Ainsworth Community Association for financial support would be referred to Development Committee for consideration and the £11,000 should be held for this purpose.

1.7	Under the Investment Programme a feasibility study is currently being undertaken in the Ainsworth area under the management of BCC Property and Projects. The purpose of the study is to consider the feasibility and sustainability of developing a community facility to support the development of the Ainsworth community. The intention is to explore the need for and focus of a new facility including the identification of project options. An architect is currently undertaking a review of the sites and buildings and developing outline sketches and costs for possible use. Once developed the options will be discussed with stakeholders and Council. The report is not yet complete.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	While the feasibility study is not yet complete, we have received a request from Ainsworth Residents Group who have outlined their plan to develop a community house at 369/371 Springfield Road: 2 two storey houses currently in private ownership. The group have not yet secured a lease on the property and indicate that the timescale is slow as there are complications in regard to replacement of a security barrier in close proximity to the dwellings. The group are confident that the necessary processes will be achieved for a lease to be secured and current discussions include DOJ, PSNI and NIHE. They have asked if Council can provide any financial support for associated costs, for example, refurbishment.
2.2	The newly established Ainsworth Residents Group ask, therefore, if committee will consider a request to utilise the £11,000 to support the cost of developing this property as a community house citing that an indication of <i>in principle</i> support at this stage would provide momentum and leverage for the group to develop an interim plan. Committee should note that ARG are not yet in a position to submit a formal business proposal to support this request.
2.3	If agreeable, the project would be subject to assessment of a sound business case which confirms that the project (ie the community house and related services) meet local need, is a value for money investment, can be sustained and that the community group have the capability to manage the facility. The BCC managed feasibility study will have a bearing on this proposal.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The £11,000 is currently being held as deferred income by the Development Department.
3.2	The actual costs associated with the proposed development of the community house is not yet known

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
There are no Equality or Good Relations issues.	

5	Recommendations
Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="268 1832 718 1861">i. note the content of the report <li data-bbox="268 1865 1374 1962">ii. consider providing in principle support for the £11,000 deferred grant to be utilized for refurbishment costs of the community house pending assessment of a sound business case. 	

6	Decision tracking
Agreed action to be completed by Catherine Taggart (CDM)	
7	Key to Abbreviations
DOJ	Department of Justice
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
ARG	Ainsworth Residents Group
8	Documents Attached
N/A	

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Belfast City Council

Report to	Development Committee
Subject:	Ballymacarrett Recreation Centre Lease Renewal
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen ext 3470 - Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart ext 3535 – Community Services Management

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Ballymacarrett Recreation Centre is one of the six independently managed centres. The centre was transferred to Connswater Community and Leisure Services by way of a lease on 20 February 2006 for community management. They were given an initial 3 year lease during which time an offer of support from BCC was available to help get them established.
1.2	The lease was then renewed for a further 3 years however the death of the group's chair led to a period of uncertainty, with monitoring returns highlighting difficulties with CC&LS's management of the centre. Community Services therefore provided development support and worked with CC&LS to address their difficulties.
1.3	Following a Capacity Building training programme the centre was returned to community management by way of a new 18 month lease from 1 October 2011, which was subsequently renewed for a further 18 months from 1 April 2013. This current lease renewal is due to expire on 30 September 2014.
1.4	CC&LS continue to manage the building with all initial difficulties having been addressed with no re emergence of any problems. EBCDA the local Capacity building group continues to support the group including having a seat on the group's Board of Directors.
1.5	CC&LS's primary focus is to contribute to the regeneration of the area, it works in partnership with several local community organisations and a range of statutory agencies to enhance the facility and the services it provides.

1.6	The centre opens 7 days a week and usage of the centre is now over 75%. An extensive pool of volunteers is in place both to support the operation of the centre and it's Management Board.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	Since 2006 CC&LS have provided recreation and community services at the Ballymacarrett centre which serves the lower Newtownards, Inner East Area, and will be a key BCC facility to support the operation of the Connswater Greenway.
2.2	In order to develop the work CC&LS have requested that BCC consider renewing the lease agreement for a period of 5 years with the option to extend for a further 5 years. This would enable the group to develop the Centre's programme and services over a longer term especially in terms of accessing external grants, as many funders require a longer lease to be in place before considering long term project or Capital funding.
2.3	Under Community Services structure the Independently Managed centres have a dedicated Development Officer who is there to support, advise and monitor the work.
2.4	CC&LS have recently completed an improvement change programme to ensure that Ballymacarrett R.C. is managed and operated in a professional manner. They have established an effective and efficient method of working and have, in conjunction with BCC, put in place a range of practices that should help to ensure that the centre continues to operate at a high standard.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The centre receives a payment of £55,108 per year to manage the centre which is net of the rent payable in-line with the independently managed community centre model. It is proposed that the same arrangement will apply to this additional lease. They are also eligible for small grant support such as Summer Scheme, Project and Community Chest. All allocation is from within existing budget allocation.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no Equality or Good Relations issues.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Committee agree to a further lease to CC&LS for 5 years from 1 October 2014 with provision to extend for a further 5 years subject to a rent of £10,775 per annum.

6	Decision Tracking
The Director of Development to liaise with the Director of Property and Projects with a view to bringing this matter to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.	



Belfast City Council

Report to	Development Committee
Subject:	Glen Road – New Lease to An Munia Tober
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen - Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart – Community Services Management ext 3535

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Community Services work to support the development of the Traveller Community to influence and take informed decisions on matters which impact on their lives. It works across the Council to deliver and support services which will improve the quality of life of all the Traveller community in Belfast. The service provides an internal and external advice service regarding the Traveller Community. It is also responsible for the delivery and development of the successful outreach office on the Glen Road.
1.2	An Munia Tober is a Traveller support organisation dedicated to the reduction of inequalities that effect the Traveller population in Greater Belfast through improvements in health, housing, education/training, economic, young people's outcomes and integration activities.
1.3	Since An Munia Tober became part of the Bryson Charitable Group in April 2012 the charity has developed and implemented a range of programmes for Travellers that respond to the identified needs of this indigenous ethnically marginalised group as identified in the Northern Ireland Race Relations Order (1997).
1.4	Through developing and maintaining partnership approaches to working with Travellers, local communities, relevant statutory and voluntary bodies and other minority ethnic groups, AMT continues to promote good relations, integration and the building of community cohesion. AMT currently occupy for these purposes two adjoining portacabins on the Glen Road which they lease from the Council.
1.5	Council in June 2013 agreed to a new lease for the porta cabins for a further 5 years from 1 October 2012 at a rent of £1,000 per annum. The group are currently in receipt of a revenue grant of £17,116.06 per annum which is net of the rent due under the lease.
1.6	Since then the organisation has extended its programme base offering a range of youth and health related programmes which has resulted in a requirement for additional space to facilitate these programmes in the area. AMT have proposed that they take a further lease for the former Traveller Liaison Office: a portacabin located in the same fenced compound as their current portacabins. This additional space was traditionally used as a full time office base for the BCC Traveller Liaison Officer, but is no longer required for this purpose.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Committee approval is sought to grant a new lease for the additional portacabin to deliver a wider range of programmes focused on health and youth engagement. A new lease would also include the remaining space within the compound and the adjacent car park. It is envisaged that the space would be further utilised as an outreach facility by other agencies such as the Housing Executive and Community Restorative Justice, Health Trust etc to provide a one stop shop for Traveller families to gain access to essential services.
2.2	<p>Specifically, the group will use the facility as far as possible to deliver the following range of programmes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Project: in response to the Belfast Trust Health Action Plan, AMT will work in partnership with the Trust and local Healthy Living Centre and community initiatives, for example, West Belfast Partnership Board's Health Group. A range of health programmes specifically identified by and tailored to meet the needs of the Traveller Community in the Greater Belfast area will be delivered. • Floating Support: AMT will support Travellers who are at risk of losing their tenancy within the Greater Belfast area. Specific support programmes are tailored to meet the individual Traveller's needs and AMT works with the Travellers and relevant statutory and voluntary agencies including NIHE, Housing Associations, Social Security and GP's to ensure the best outcome is secured. • Training, education and employment programme which engages with and prepares young and adult Travellers to participate in mainstream training programmes. Support is provided to Travellers to apply for and secure employment opportunities as well as giving them the knowledge to set up and maintain small businesses. AMT will liaise with local training providers, education providers, employment services, local community centres, and business development organisations to provide a comprehensive programme. • The Youth Programme which will create opportunities for children and young people to become engaged in programmes that meet their educational, personal and social needs and provide a forum to have their voices heard. The Programme will work in partnership with other local clubs, for example Colin Glen Youth Club, to increase integration opportunities.
2.3	An annual rent of £2,315 per annum has been calculated by the Estates Management Unit, for the additional portacabin, compound and car parking.
2.4	AMT receive an annual grant net of rent which is in-line with the independently managed community centre model, it is proposed that the same arrangement will apply to this additional lease.
2.5	AMT has an adequate staff base to ensure the effective day to day management of the centre and will be responsible for the overall management of the facility.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>An annual rent of £2,315 has been assessed by the Estates Management Unit for the additional portacabin and site. The annual grant is awarded net of rent in line with the independently managed community centre model.</p>

3.2	<u>Assets</u> On-going maintenance costs of the facilities which are covered through existing budget arrangements via the Property and Projects Department.
3.3	<u>Human Resources</u> Staff resource, primarily from Estates Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the new Lease. The leasing arrangement will be overseen through current staff in the Community Facilities Unit in Community Services and the Traveller Liaison Officer will continue to work with AMT on programme development.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	The Traveller Community is recognised under section 75 of the equality legislation. AMT provides essential support services to promote equality of life issues that impact on this group.

5	Recommendation
5.1	The Committee is requested to approve the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree to a new lease until 30 September 2017 to cover the remaining Portacabin, fenced compound and car park traditionally used as the office base for the Traveller Liaison Officer at a yearly rent of £2,315. 2. To agree to the proposed management and rental arrangements via the independently community centre model.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	The Director of Development to liaise with the Director of Property and Projects with a view to bringing the matter of the new lease to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	AMT - An Munia Tober BCC - Belfast City Council

8	Document Attached
	None

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Belfast City Council

Report to	Development Committee
Subject:	North Queen Street Community Centre – New Licence Agreement to Holy Family and Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club.
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen - Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart – Community Services Management ext 3535

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Holy Family & Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club has been a user of facilities at North Queen Street Community Centre since the late 1960s. The Council has managed this Community Centre since the mid 1970s. The Club have use of a designated area within the Centre during normal opening hours Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm & 7pm-11pm, Friday 9am – 4.30 pm & 7pm – 10.30pm with additional 'out of normal' hours on Saturday 10am – 1pm.
1.2	The Club's use of the facilities at the Centre was formalised through a Licence Agreement with the Council approved by the Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee on 25 November 2004. A further 5 year licence from 1 February 2009 was then approved by the Development Committee on 14 January 2009. The annual fee payable of £998.00 was agreed at 10% of what would be due if the Council's Pricing Policy was applied. This concessionary rate was agreed in recognition of the Club's contribution to both community development and community relations through sport.
1.3	The current Licence has now expired and the Club have requested a further 5 year agreement.
2	Key Issues
2.1	The Licence Agreement for the facilities used by the Club is now due for renewal. It is intended that a new Licence Agreement would be based on the same terms and conditions as the previous Agreement for a period of 5 years from 1 February 2014.
2.2	A revised rent is proposed of £1,075 per annum which has been calculated using the previous concessionary rate of 10%.

3	Resource Implications

3.1	<u>Finance</u> An increased fee of £1,075 per annum would become payable from 1 February 2014.
3.2	<u>Assets</u> The Council will continue to be responsible for maintenance and repair of the Centre.
3.3	<u>Human Resources</u> Staff resource, primarily from Estates Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the new Licence.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality or Good Relations issues.

5	Recommendation
5.1	It is recommended that Committee agree to a further Licence to Holy Family and Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club for a further 5 years from 1 February 2014 subject to an annual fee of £1,075 per annum subject to approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders and incorporation of appropriate terms in a legal agreement to be prepared by the Town Solicitor.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	The Director of Development to liaise with the Director of Property and Projects with a view to bringing the matter of the new Licence to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	N/A

8	Document Attached
	N/A



Belfast City Council

Report to	Development Committee
Subject:	Denmark Street Community Centre Rent Review – Denmark Street Residents Association
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen - Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart – Community Services Management ext 3535

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Community and Leisure Services Committee on 25 November 2004 agreed to enter into a Lease with Denmark Street Community Association for the occupation of Denmark Street Community Centre. It was also agreed to submit a funding application to Belfast Regeneration Office for a major refurbishment of the facility which had serious structural and internal defects. The application for refurbishment costs of £300,000 was successful and the project commenced in June 2007 and was completed in February 2008.
1.2	The 25 year Lease commenced on the 1 April 2008 subject to an annual rent of £3,500 and rent reviews every 5 years.
2	Key Issues
2.1	The rent under the Lease fell due for review on 1 April 2013 and the Estate Management Unit have calculated a revised rent of £3,786 per annum which is a concessionary rate reflecting community use. The group receive a grant/payment of £20,806.00 which is paid net of rent in-line with the independently managed community centre model.
3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Finance</u> The rental value of the property for community use has increased to £3,786 per annum and will become payable from 1 April 2013.
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality or Good Relations issues.

5	Recommendation
5.1	It is recommended that Committee agree to a revised rent of £3,786 per annum payable from the rent review date of 1 April 2013. This would be subject to approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	The Director of Development to liaise with the Director of Property and Projects with a view to bringing the matter of the revised rent to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.



Belfast City Council

Report to	Development Committee
Subject:	Children and Young People (CYP) Service Update
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart Community Development Manager ext 3525 Elaine Black, Children & Young People Manager, ext 3783

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This paper provides an update on Council's children and young people (CYP) activity from both an internal service delivery and a development support perspective. It also notes developments in the complex CYP external environment.
1.2	<p>Since the last Committee update in February the CYP unit has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Forum's Future cities events '#Live louder' and '#Digi dragons'; • Recruited 40 young people from 100 applicants onto the new Youth Forum 2014-16 as our city's young ambassadors; • Over 4000 children enjoyed a range of events and activities including Play Summer schemes (301 children); Summer Support (1088 children) engaged in junk art, messy play, etc; Ardnalvalley event (878 children from 47 groups) and the central events programme (1867 children from 68 groups); • Hosted the annual Party in the Park involving 550 young people from 56 groups. • Organised 12 Come & Play Sessions in our parks, 6 Park days and Rose week with special events at Embrace Ballysillan, Ardoyne Fleadh, Avoniel LC Health day and Women's Health Event in Darfur Community. • During October the Lord Mayor welcomed our new Youth Forum members and launched the Intergenerational toolkit which was co-designed by the Youth Forum.
1.3	Some upcoming events include the EurVoice event on 16 th October 12:30-4:30pm in City Hall and the PCSP youth awards, in which the Youth Forum is sponsoring the children's rights award on at 6:30pm on 7 th November in City Hall.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Service development</p> <p>Alongside existing service delivery, the CYP unit is testing the development of an outcomes focused approach to the design of services which are relevant to both the age and need of the child or young person. An internal touchstone group of senior managers from across council has been established in order to inform and influence this approach which we are developing within the context of any agreed Corporate outcomes framework.</p> <p>Over the next 3 years, services will measure and evaluate the difference made to children and young people's lives, enabling children and young people to be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. aspiring, assertive, empowered, enterprising and active citizens, and; ii. believe Belfast is where they are equal, safe and prosperous and enjoy it as a place to play, study, work, live and visit: 'a place to be'. <p>The CYP unit is developing a number of tools to support staff across council to embed this outcomes approach to service delivery and these include a CYP engagement plan, CYP statistics profile, service assessment guide and awareness programme. This will continue to be refined with the learning we have experienced from embedding the approach in the Play Service and Youth Forum. For example, the Youth Forum has now been recruited with an outcomes focus and over the next 2 years we will map the progress of the individual young person throughout their membership and also capture the changes they have campaigned for generally for young people in the city.</p>
2.2	<p>CYP Engagement</p> <p>It is standard practice in the unit to actively engage CYP in the development or delivery of direct CYP services. This was tested for the Future Cities events in March 2014. The Youth Forum designed and delivered engagement events that successfully appealed to their peers and secured over two hundred 13-18 year olds at the 2 events. The events celebrated the talents of young people through music and digital solutions to the priorities which they identified: mental health and the environment. The winning band from #Live louder will form part of this year's programme of activity and the winning digital apps and games will be launched when completed.</p> <p>The Youth Forum shaped an e survey which they rolled out at the events and this found that the audiences were mainly 15-18 years old and most of these young people were in school, felt happy and felt that council should make Belfast a safe, clean, fun place to hang out. The full summary is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Play Service recently supported children's voices to be heard in the development of the new stadia services at Olympia. We are continuing to work to develop engagement around Leisure transformation via the Eurvoice event.</p>
2.3	<p>UR City 2 Funding</p> <p>In August, we hosted a shared learning event for the Ur City 2 funding programme which is delivered with Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. All NRP areas in the city had secured financial support to help deliver CYP activities in their neighbourhoods. Feedback from the partnerships included positive comments on the additional activity supported via this fund and the simplicity of the approach however they suggested some improvements to the application process e.g. when it opens, when returns are submitted and the permissible delivery period for activities. We are currently working to align the Ur City 2</p>

	<p>funding to the CYP outcomes and to operationally realign the opening of the Ur City 2 programme for the start of the next financial year. NRPs indicated they would welcome more shared learning events and we are currently exploring appropriate opportunities.</p>
2.4	<p>Political CYP champions (formerly known as Youth champions) In recent months Cllr Julie-Ann Corr has become the PUP political CYP champion replacing Cllr Kyle. All political parties have the opportunity to appoint a CYP champion and we are hopeful this will continue for the new council. We have plans to pilot an ezine to support the CYP champions which will summarise key events/ activities or research that may be of interest.</p>
2.5	<p>Safeguarding Children We continue to ensure council meets its safeguarding responsibilities through the delivery of a formal training and awareness raising programme to all relevant officers. Our Designated Child Protection Officers also support staff across council to deal with any issues in order to ensure compliant practice. A policy refresh is underway. Officers represent Council on Belfast's safeguarding panel and the Lord Mayor is supporting the launch of the Child Sexual Exploitation community campaign on 17th November in Belfast City Mission.</p>
2.6	<p>External environment The external environment continues to be both complex and fluid and this is best illustrated in diagram 1 (Appendix 2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In summary, CYP is managed regionally via DHSSPS and the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). Council is a member of its Belfast Outcomes Group (BOG) which is also the early intervention sub-group of the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP). ii. BOG is seen as a decision making body for locality planning groups, family support hubs and most recently the commissioning of CYP services worth up to £1.8million over 3 years. (A meeting took place in September with council staff to influence how we might shape this commissioning process). Members should note that 5 family support hubs are currently in place in Belfast. iii. Since March 2014, the Delivering Social Change for CYP structure has rolled out centrally and has been a regional driver for the Family Support Hubs. This includes the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP) worth £30million regionally. This includes a new seventh signature programme on play and leisure (£1.6million). iv. Members may recall commenting on the DSC for CYP consultation earlier this year. It appears from a NI Executive committee in September, the proposed approach may revert back to being a separate Child poverty strategy (to be in draft for Oct 14) and also an over arching CYP regional framework strategy to be co-designed with the CYP sector in the next year. v. Over the past few months, Belfast Healthy Cities have led discussions on behalf of BSP on a child friendly Belfast. There are a number of upcoming opportunities which officers are exploring to align with this work, for example, transfer of planning, future cities ambitions, North campus development etc. and also with existing services. vi. The CYP unit is supporting the Family Friendly initiative as part of BSP

2.8	<p>which seeks to connect neighbourhoods to the city centre via dedicated activities. This links positively to the ambition for CYP in the Lord Mayor's programme.</p> <p>vii. In September the Greater Shankill community convention launched the designation of the area as a CYP action zone securing cross-departmental support at Ministerial level in the NI Executive. This neighbourhood led approach focuses on education which is one of the key CYP outcomes.</p> <p>viii. The United Youth Programme (TBUC) has transferred from OFMDFM to DEL and has sought concept submissions in September and the successful pilot applicants will be selected in December to commence in Jan 15.</p> <p>The CYP manager can provide more information on any of these items on request.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no budget implications to this paper.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	The CYP manager will implement all agreed actions.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>CYP(SP) Children and Young People (strategic partnership) BOG Belfast Outcomes group PCSP Policing and Community Safety Partnership UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child NRP Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership TBUC Together Building a United Community DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety DSC CYP Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People OFMDFM Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister EITP Early Intervention Transformation Programme DEL Department for Employment and Learning</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Council's Youth Forum Future cities event: Young People's opinions summary</p> <p>Appendix 2: External CYP environment diagram</p>

Appendix 1: Council's Youth Forum Future cities event – Young People's opinions summary

The Youth Forum designed and delivered 2 Future cities events in March:

#Live louder: (a music competition with 40 entries; 8 finalist acts performing at Oh Yeah Centre to 100 young people who voted 'The Left Backs' winners).

#Digi dragons: 11 school/ youth organisations entered to create digital solutions/ applications; 6 finalists and the winners were St Louise's (environmental category) and Victoria College (mental health category).

The legacy of which is the winning band and digital apps will be launched are part of the upcoming co-ordinated CYP programme of activity celebrating CYP generally throughout the year.

These events were the first opportunity for the Youth Forum to be actively engaged in facilitating the opinions of their peers to inform what Belfast as a future city could be.

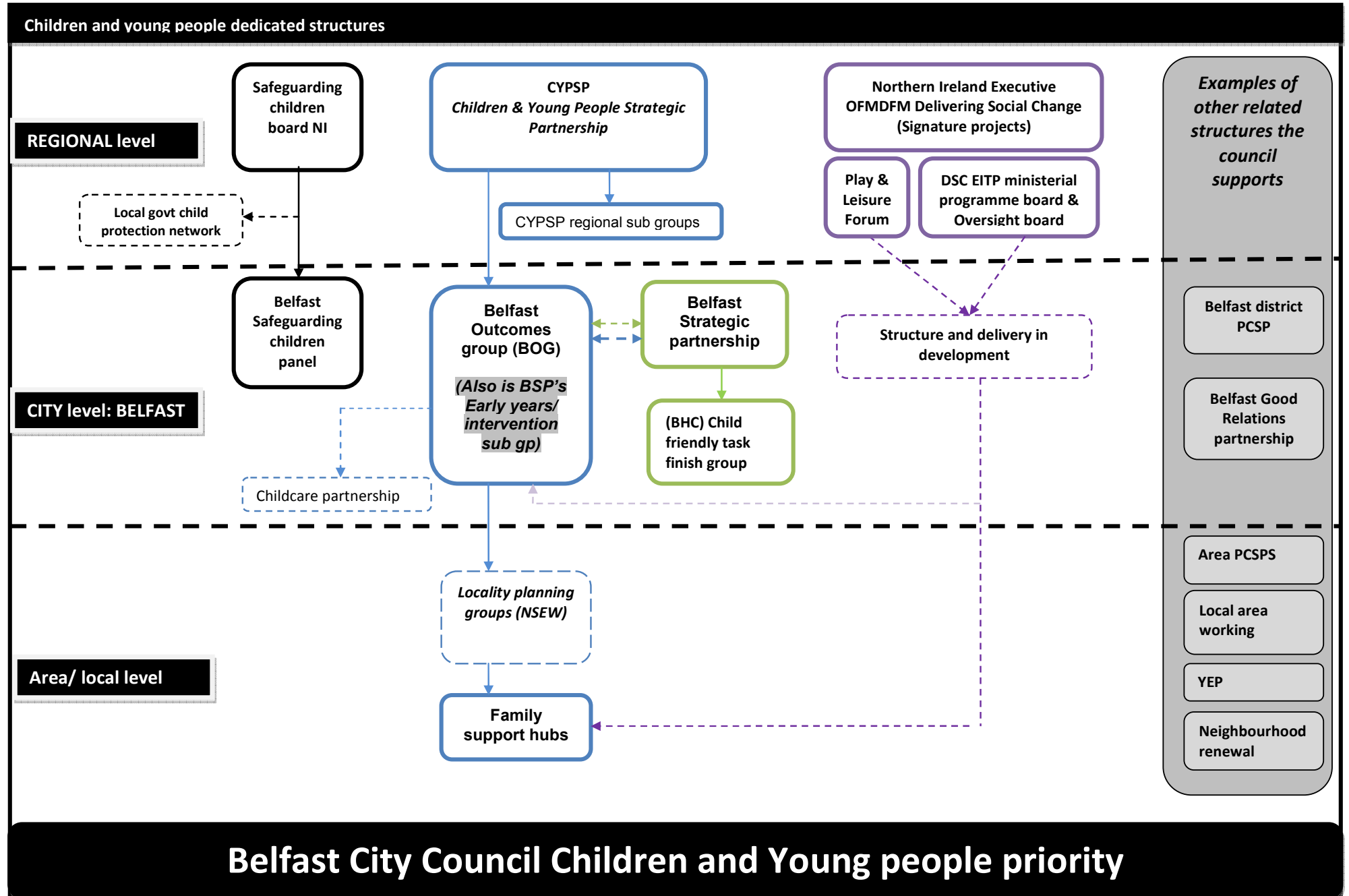
YF members were trained and then worked in advance on an e survey and interviewed the young people at the events using the council's super connected iPads to record these findings.

90 surveys were recorded and from mainly 15-18 years old, the majority of which were at school. The analysis indicated the following:

- They were 'happy or very happy at the time; felt welcome (95%) in the city centre and adults listened to them 'sometimes'
- Council should make Belfast safe, a fun place to hang out and clean.
- Knew they had rights even if they were not sure what UNCRC was.
- Safe in where they lived or the city centre by day however less so at night especially in the city centre;
- The main worry they had was school work and exams,
- They preferred to exercise at least once a week by going to the gym, running, football, dancing and horse riding.
- 82% had green space near their home and recycled.
- 73% chose to hang out with their friends in their spare time;
- Most wanted to go onto college or university when older;
- Where they lived was good, nice, safe, friendly and great as a place to live but would change it with more activities that all children and young people can do, better sports clubs/ centres and better shops.
- They used Facebook (76%) on a daily basis and primarily use the internet for schoolwork, research and entertainment.

These findings guide the YF development and also enable the Unit to support other officers and members in developing active engagement and/or build on the outcomes focused survey work.

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Belfast City Council

Report to	Development Committee
Subject:	Cancellation of Standing Committee Meetings in November
Date:	21st October 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer (6312)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In November it will be necessary for two Party Briefings to be organised for each Party on the Council so that the future governance arrangements for the new Council and the Rate setting process can be discussed fully. The Shadow SP&R Committee, at its meeting on 26th September, agreed to take both these matters forward through Party Briefings in the first instance.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Given the busy Committee Schedule and the call on most Members' time in attending meetings of both the existing Council and the Shadow Council, it is considered that it would prove to be very difficult to organise a second series of Party Briefings unless some time can be made free.
2.2	<p>The Chief Officers of the several Council Departments have advised that there would be unlikely to be any major disruption to the provision of services if the Standing Committees for Parks & Leisure, Development, Health & Environmental Services and Licensing were to be cancelled for November, so long as the general scheme of delegation which applies during the recess month of July each year were to be extended for that month. The scheme which applies in July, as set out in the Standing Orders for the Council indicate that:</p> <p><i>“Committees shall meet on a monthly basis. Unless in the case of emergency, Committees shall not meet during the month of July. During that month the business of the Council normally managed by the Committees shall, where circumstances render it necessary, be discharged by the Chief Executive or, in her absence, her Deputy acting upon recommendations made by the Directors of</i></p>

	<p><i>Departments. If, however, any matter arises which in the opinion of the Chief Executive or her Deputy ought properly to be placed before a Committee for consideration, the Chief Executive or her Deputy, in consultation with the Chair or Deputy Chair concerned shall, if necessary, call a meeting of the Committee for that purpose.”</i></p>
2.3	<p>Chief Officers for those Committees would not seek to have any decisions taken under delegated authority in November if the decision could be delayed until the meetings scheduled for December, 2014. Where any decision was time bound and for which it was considered to be necessary to seek to use the Chief Executive’s delegated authority during November, such action would not be taken unless the Chief Executive had consulted with the Party Leaders and the relevant Committee Chairman. If, after this consultation, it was considered that the matter in question would be better referred for Committee decision then it would either be taken to the appropriate Committee in December or be taken to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in November.</p>
2.4	<p>It is also considered that the scheduled meeting of the Town Planning Committee would take place in November so that there would not be any delay to the issuing of planning approvals for development. In addition, the usual meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee would also be scheduled to take place, in case there were any matters where it was considered that it would be preferable for Members’ views to be taken rather than exercising the delegated authority.</p>
2.5	<p>It should be noted that the monthly meetings of the Shadow Council Committees would continue to take place during November.</p>
2.6	<p>The Party Leaders Forum, at its meeting on 3rd October, agreed to this course of action, subject to the safeguards set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to cancel its scheduled meeting in November, 2014 for the reasons outlined above.