



<b>Subject:</b>	Council Improvement Plan for 2022-23
<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Patricia Flynn, Strategic Policy & Planning Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

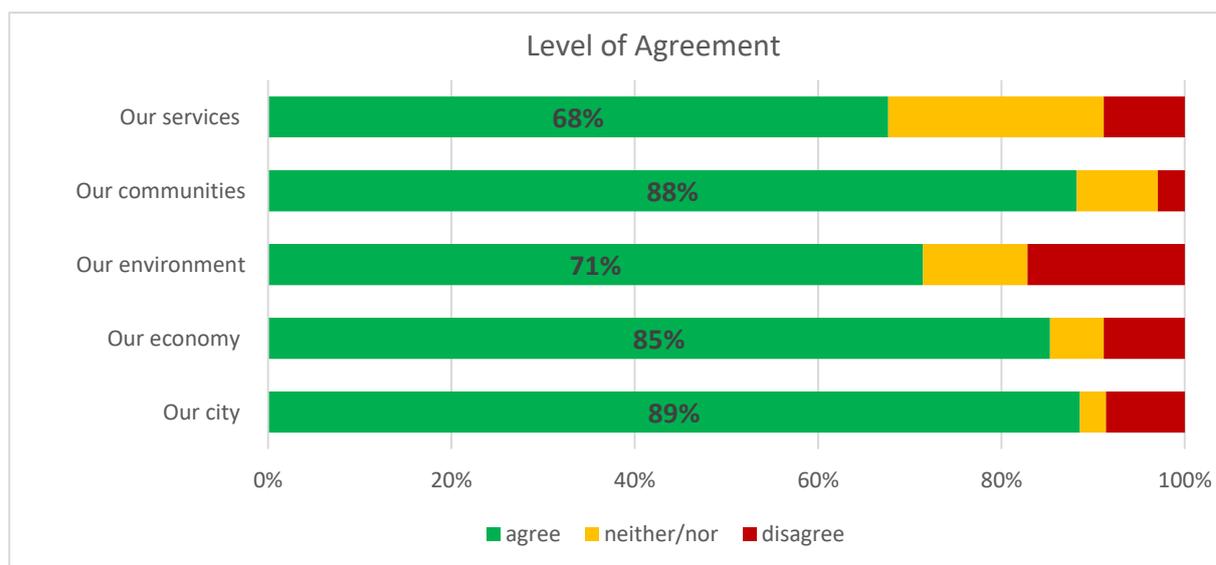
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the results from the public consultation on our (draft) council improvement objectives and to present for approval and publication the draft Council Improvement Plan: 2022 - 2023.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Approve the draft 2022-23 Council Improvement Plan attached at appendix 1. As council is legally required to publish its improvement plan by 30th June, Members are also asked to authorise its publication on the council's website subject to formal ratification by Council on 1st July.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	We have a statutory duty to agree improvement objectives and produce an annual improvement plan by 30 <sup>th</sup> June each year. The Improvement plan does not include everything that council

plans to do that year, but instead focuses on a smaller set of key improvement priorities, as informed by resident priorities and evidenced by need. In February, SP&R approved draft improvement objectives, which we then issued for public consultation:

<b>Our services</b>
We will continue to adapt and improve our services
<b>Our communities</b>
We will work to support our communities, helping them to become stronger, healthier and more resilient
<b>Our economy</b>
We will work collaboratively to support businesses, jobs and inclusive growth
<b>Our environment</b>
We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast
<b>Our city</b>
We will continue to support our city to recover and innovate in a safe, inclusive and sustainable way

### Summary of Consultation Responses

3.2 The consultation ran for a period of 10 weeks and was hosted on our Your say Belfast engagement platform and promoted through the council’s social media channels. A total of 35 responses were received with key results summarised below. (Note: we do not normally receive a large response to consultations of this nature.) The majority of those responding to the consultation supported the proposed improvement objectives as set out in the graph below.



3.3	<p>Respondents were also given the opportunity to make comments, provide ideas or to suggest other areas that they felt should be included as improvement objectives. Around half of all respondents submitted comments, which related in general to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalising the city centre</li> <li>• Climate change and the environment</li> <li>• Improving public transport, cycling provision and parking</li> <li>• Enhancing green spaces and improving safety and wellbeing</li> <li>• Improving cleanliness and addressing dog fouling</li> <li>• Internal council processes (including comments about the survey)</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>The final improvement plan includes actions that reflect the commentary above, such as the city centre ‘Vacant to Vibrant’ scheme, digital enhancements to improve customer interactions, improvements to pest control and various environmental enhancements to our parks and open spaces, which should help council deliver the broad improvements that respondents wish to see. The written comments from this consultation have been forwarded to relevant services for information and where applicable have been fed into the ongoing review of the Belfast Agenda. Some of the issues raised are not the responsibility of council.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Improvement Plan 2022 - 23</b></p> <p>Given the high levels of support, as evidenced by this consultation, we did not feel it was necessary to make changes to the proposed improvement objectives. However, feedback from the consultation was shared with services to help them develop their improvement tasks and milestones. As required by the legislation, we have now drafted a detailed Improvement Plan that sets out our improvement actions and targets. This is attached at appendix 1. Members of the SP&amp;R Committee are asked to approve the attached plan and to authorise its publication on the council website by 30th June. In order to meet the statutory deadline, the plan will be published subject to formal ratification by full Council on 1st July.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>The Improvement Plan has been reflected in the formal planning and budgeting processes of council; there are no unplanned resource implications contained in this report.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs</u></p> <p>There are no equality or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>

