



Subject:	Update on Naming of Lagan Gateway Bridge
Date:	19th August, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update the Committee on the Lagan Gateway project and to agree next steps in the naming process of the bridge.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to - i. note the current position on the naming of the new bridge at Lagan Gateway; ii. note the significant number of suggestions made by the public for the Bridge to be named after Noah Donohoe (or a variation of the same) and, based on this response

	<p>and the support from the family, to consider whether, on this occasion, if it wishes to step outside of the Naming Policy for the naming of the Bridge; and</p> <p>iii. if agreed to step outside of the naming policy whether it wishes this to be added to the shortlisted names or, given the level of support for the proposed name, agree on this occasion to agree the principle of the Bridge being named after Noah, with the final name to be agreed with the family without going through the second stage of the process.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>The Lagan Gateway project included the development of a navigation lock, an iconic foot and cycle bridge, the refurbishment of the existing weir and high-quality landscaping with associated path connections as part of Phase 1. Works are underway on Phase 2 which will see connections from the Annadale side up into Belvoir Forest. The Bridge officially opened in September of last year and has proved to be extremely popular with high levels of usage. A murals project on the piers of the Bridge has also received very positive feedback.</p> <p>3.2 Members will be aware that a public competition to name the Bridge took place last year. This was carried out in line with the Council's agreed naming policy which has been run for other similar projects including the bridges in Cnnswater Community Greenway. This follows a two-stage process -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an open call for proposed names 2. Names are shortlisted by an assessment panel with the shortlisted names going out for a final vote <p>This report provides an update for Members in respect of the current status of the naming process for the Bridge. In considering this however it is important that Members are aware of the Council's Naming policy and this is outlined below.</p> <p>Council Naming policy</p> <p>3.3 The Naming policy outlines a number of general principles including that any proposed name should -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engender a strong positive image; • be appropriate having regard to the location; • have historical, cultural or social significance for future generations; • commemorate places, people or events that are of continued importance to the city or region;

- have broad public support as evidenced through consultation; and
- be inoffensive and non-party political

3.4 In addition the Naming policy also notes that where any proposed name is after a person or memorialises a person then -

- The person must be deceased for a minimum of five years.
- If the nominee is deceased then appropriate relatives or friends will be contacted asking if they approve of the request. If the relatives or friends do not approve, the naming process will not be pursued.
- The person must have made a “significant contribution” to the life of the area/City/made a significant positive contribution to parks and leisure objectives within the community where the facility is located.
- The person must have lived within the locality / district electoral area (DEA) of the park or leisure facility for a significant or formative period;

Lagan Bridge – Current Status

3.5 In line with the Council’s Naming policy an open process for naming ideas for the new bridge at Lagan was opened on 12th May last year via the ‘Your Say’ consultation hub, The first stage of the process closed on 30th May 2021 and received **1785 contributions** which far exceeded expectations. The Naming Panel met 9th August and after consideration in the context of the Council policy, agreed to extend the shortlist to eight names from a variety of categories. They not only applied the original criteria for naming a Council facility but also looked at the popularity of the suggestions (i.e. how many people made a suggestion and how many likes it received). The agreed shortlist included at least one suggestion from the following groups for the public to choose including Name after a person; Name after locations; Play on a name or more symbolic name or Name after species or elements of the natural environment

3.6 On the basis of the naming policy the Panel shortlisted 8 names – (1) *Mary O’Malley Bridge*, (2) *Mary-Ann McCracken Bridge*, (3) *Bridge of Hope*, (4) *Friendship Bridge*, (5) *Kingfisher Bridge*, (6) *Lagan Gateway Bridge*, (7) *Bredagh Bridge* and (8) *Stranmillis Bridge*

3.7 The Panel also recommended that when the shortlist of names is put forward that it should include the rationale for the selection of each shortlisted name. This is attached.

3.8 However, Members are advised that, whilst the above names have been shortlisted in line with our Naming Policy, the public call did return a number of suggestions for names which fell outside of scope of the policy (i.e. the stipulation that if it is to be named after a person that person must be have been deceased for a minimum of five years). On review, it was

discovered that the policy criteria were not included in the communication that went out seeking suggestions, therefore, those making suggestions were not aware of the policy restrictions.

3.9 One of the names suggested, currently falling outside of the policy remit, was **Noah's Bridge or the Noah Donohoe Bridge** (or variations similar to this). Whilst a wide selection of other names were suggested that also fall outside of the policy remit, including other individuals who have sadly lost their life in recent years, Members are advised that the Noah Donohoe proposals received a significant level of public support and was suggested over **1,000** times and received **12,000** 'likes'.

3.10 This was reported to the People and Communities Committee in September last year and the Committee deferred it to Party Leaders for consideration. It was then subsequently agreed that officers would liaise with the family to ascertain their views and whether they would be supportive of such a proposal.

3.11 Members are asked to note that senior officers subsequently met with the Fiona Donohoe and her solicitor and updated them on the outcome of the first stage of the naming process. At this stage it was agreed that we would explore a number of different options which could be reflective of Noah's life and discuss these again further with the family. Given this a holding position in respect of the naming process has been advised since this time.

3.12 Members are asked to note that in late June correspondence was received from the Donohoe family confirming that they would welcome any proposal to name the bridge after Noah and they were grateful for the support that had been expressed by the public for this option. They noted that the Lagan Tow path was a favourite spot for the family and that given this they felt it would be a fitting legacy.

3.13 Given the significant level of public interest and confirmation of support by the family, the Committee is asked

- if it wishes on this occasion to step outside of the Naming Policy in respect of the naming
- and if does agree this, whether it wishes to add this to the shortlisted names or given the level of support for the proposed name in Noah's memory agree on this occasion to agree the principle of the Bridge being named after Noah with the final name to be agreed with the family.

Members are asked to note that, following the Committee and dependent on the option chosen by Members, a communications plan will be developed.

<p>3.14</p> <p>3.15</p>	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Dependent on the option agreed</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The shortlisted names as outlined in 3.6 above are in line with the Council’s Naming Policy. If an additional name is proposed outside of this policy this will be screened in line with the Council’s equality process.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Document Attached</p>
	<p>Names shortlisted by the Naming Panel</p>