



Subject:	All Party City Centre Working Group
Date:	10 August 2022
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Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Members on the proposals for a City Centre All Party Working Group, and emerging wider city centre governance structures.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the proposals for a City Centre All - Party Working Group, which will be considered in detail by Party Leaders at the Party Leaders Consultative Forum on 11 August and following this to SP&R Committee on 19 August for approval. II. Note the emerging wider city centre governance proposals (Appendix One) in the context of various independent priorities including vulnerability, cleanliness, safety and the long-term regeneration and diversification of the city centre.

3.0	Background and Context
3.1	<p>Members will recall that the CG&R Committee at its meeting in June approved the establishment of a Members City Centre Working Group, with further details to be brought back on the Terms of Reference and membership. It was proposed that the Group be convened to provide a forum to allow, as appropriate, public and private city stakeholders, including representatives from business and community organisations, the development, tourism and cultural, housing and education sectors and BID's, to engage with Members to address the short- and longer-term challenges facing the city centre.</p>
3.2	<p>At the same time as this proposal coming forward it is of relevance, and to provide context to the emerging wider city centre governance to highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current challenges facing the city centre focused on vulnerability, safety and cleanliness, were becoming increasingly prevalent. In response to this there has been various meetings between Council Elected Members and officers, statutory partners and various city centre stakeholders including BCTC, BIDs etc. It is recognised that it is difficult to totally separate these often-interdependent issues, however, to effectively address the significance and severity of these issues dedicated and focused governance groups are required. • In June 2022 the People and Communities Committee adopted a Notice of Motion in relation to Cleansing Task Force, put forward at the Standards and Business Committee and agreed to establish a Cleansing Task Force made up of Elected Members from each Political Party and Council officers. The first meeting of the Task Force took place on 29 June.
3.3	<p>As regularly reported through this Committee, Members will be aware the Council have been leading on a Future City Centre (FCC) Programme (Appendix Two FCC Pillars) - a multi-faceted framework to take forward the long-term regeneration and diversification of the city centre, including one pillar on Clean, Green and Safe (Multi Agency). This 6 pillar approach has also been considered by the Community Planning Partnership – City Development Board under the priority area of the Future City Centre. As reported through the People and Communities Committee, the City & Neighbourhood Services Department have led on a Clean, Green, Inclusive and Safe (CGIS) City Centre Study. An emerging CGIS action plan is in draft, with city centre governance highlighted as a key immediate priority action.</p>

4.0	Main Report
4.1	<p>City Centre All - Party Working Group</p> <p>Details on the City Centre All - Party Working Group, including the draft Terms of Reference, will be brought to the Party Leaders at the Party Leaders Consultative Forum on 11 August and following this will be presented to SP&R Committee on 19 August for approval. It is proposed that the overarching role of the City Centre All-Party Working Group will be to identify and prioritise issues and opportunities to address specific needs of the city centre with the aim of regenerating and improving the vibrancy of the city centre, linked to the council's growth aspirations and the Community Planning Partnership – City Development Board. The City Centre All Party Working Group will not have a decision-making function, rather it will make recommendations and report to the City Growth & Regeneration, People & Communities and Strategic Policy and Resources Committees as appropriate.</p>
4.2	<p>The following is a high-level synopsis of the proposed Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a reference panel for the wider development and regeneration of the city centre; • Collectively identify opportunities and challenges and consider actions, partnership working and opportunities which may be subsequently brought forward via the Council Committee process; • Consider the city-centre dimension of key strategic plans and projects such as the Belfast Agenda, Bolder Vision, cultural strategy, tourism plan etc – including developing a sustainable and inclusive city centre which will attract a residential population, retain and attract talent and inclusive investment; • Consider the Clean Green Inclusive & Safe Action Plan; • Consider the future of the city centre's nightlife and the immediate challenges posed in the city between 6pm and 6am in collaboration with relevant partners to drive forward a vibrant, diverse and sustainable nightlife to support the objectives of the Belfast Agenda including encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well – connected environment for people to enjoy; • Participate in and facilitate engagement and communication activities associated with connected communities; • Strengthen relationships with external stakeholders including residents, businesses, development community and wider agencies

4.3	<p>Given the important role of the city centre as a hub for investment, culture, tourism, learning and employment, it is felt that an All-Party Working Group could help to ensure it can continue to perform these important roles for the benefit of all areas of the city to derive the benefits. Given the importance of continued public /private partnership working it could also serve as a useful forum to consider some of the matters raised via various fora such as the Renewed Ambition Partnership; specific developer/BCC regeneration focused Reference Groups etc and seek input of Members as appropriate.</p>
4.4	<p>Emerging wider City Centre Governance</p> <p>In response to the emerging city centre issues and ongoing related work strands as highlighted above, a review has been undertaken of existing mechanisms for engagement and improved governance to bring together the various city centre related facets and ensure synergy whilst avoiding duplication and silo approaches. An overview of the draft governance proposals is enc at Appendix1:</p>
4.5	<p>(i) Future City Centre Leadership Group – CPP City Development Board: Future City Centre (FCC) Programme.</p> <p>The FCC programme (Appendix 2 FCC Pillars) is led by Council but is linked to the wider ambitions of the Belfast Agenda and the Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy and is integral to the delivery of the Council’s Recovery Framework. As highlighted in section 3.3 of this report, the City Development Board of the Community Planning Partnership has agreed the FCC as a priority area, particularly given its cross-cutting nature across the wider public and private sector and partners represented on the Board. The FCC Leadership Group will focus on ensuring that a vehicle exists across a number of priorities to raise and expedite issues relating to the priorities for the City Centre across the FCC Programme pillars of Regeneration & Development; Connectivity; Business & Investment; Positioning the City to Compete; Digital & Innovation; Cultural, Tourism & Vibrancy and Clean, Green Inclusive & Safe. The group will be anchored within the CPP governance arrangements and give focus to and drive forward specific actions identified under the City Development Board’s FCC pillar. The FCC Leadership Group will be co-chaired by Council’s Director of City Regeneration and Development and the Belfast Chamber Chief Executive. Membership will be drawn from a number of partners including BCC, city centre stakeholders including private sector, central government agencies, anchor institutions, Visit Belfast and BIDs and representation from the VCSE panel.</p>

4.6	<p>(ii) Strategic Leadership Group – Complex Lives:</p> <p>Members will be aware of the work underway to develop and embed a new approach to supporting vulnerable individuals within the city (Complex Lives: One Belfast Vulnerability Model). A short briefing of the model is enc at Appendix 3.</p>
4.7	<p>A strategic and proactive partnership and multi-agency approach has been established which brings together the NIHE, Public Health Authority, the Health and Social Care Board, Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Council, along with voluntary agencies. A Strategic Leadership Group (CEO level commitment) is established under the auspices of Community Planning and is chaired by the Council’s Belfast Chief Executive. This is supported by a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) which meet on a weekly basis to understand the specific needs and to develop an individualised support plan for the vulnerable person.</p>
4.8	<p>At a recent Lord Mayor and Party Group Leaders’ meeting with statutory partners held on 22 June, there was strong support for the complex lives approach which is being prototyped to support vulnerable individuals with a call to scale-up the initiative at pace. The ability to scale up the Complex Lives programme is impacted upon the level of resources available and the time intensive and long lead in time it takes before results can be evidenced due to the nature of the cohort. Negotiations are ongoing with partners to secure an initial year budget to support the development of a joint case management system, increase the numbers of dedicated case workers to support the vulnerable individuals as well as strategic and advisory support across partners. Work is also underway with partners to develop a focused action plan under the leadership of this group, which will provide an immediate and practical response to support the most vulnerable people in the city centre. The terms of reference and membership of the group are being revisited to ensure representation is appropriate with a view to improving outcomes.</p>
4.9	<p>(iii) Multi Agency Operational (tasking) Group – Clean, Green, Inclusive & Safe (CGIS):</p> <p>The core focus of this group will specifically be around Clean Green Inclusive and Safe issues and overseeing short, medium and long term implementation of a CGIS city centre study (commissioned via City & Neighbourhood Services) and draft action plan. It is intended that this CGIS Action Plan will be brought via the People & Communities</p>

<p>4.10</p> <p>4.11</p>	<p>Committee, as well as to the City Centre All Party Members Working Group. It is proposed that the Multi Agency Operational Group representation is from across those city partners with a role on clean, green, safe and inclusive matters eg BIDs, DfC, Dfl, PSNI etc. The CGIS City Centre study and draft Action Plan has involved significant engagement with these partners to date, however, it will be important to obtain partner commitment to the delivery of the actions within the draft Action Plan. It is therefore proposed that this will form the basis of the work programme for the proposed Multi Agency Operational Group. The group will be chaired initially by the Council’s Chief Executive with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services supporting, alongside Place and Economy representation as appropriate.</p> <p>(iv) Cleanliness Task Force</p> <p>Convened by the Lord Mayor and with All Party Member representation, alongside senior Council officers, the Task Force, was recently convened to address the escalating problem of street cleanliness in both neighbourhoods and the city centre.</p> <p>(v) City Centre Coordination Group – Internal Officer Group:</p> <p>This internal officer group will coordinate and share information across the 6 pillars of the FCC Programme (Appendix 2 FCC Pillars), including the Clean Green & Safe operational issues, as well as the ongoing work around vulnerability and homelessness. The group will be an internal cross departmental city centre coordination forum.</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any future resource implications will be brought to the Strategic Policy and resources Committee.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: City Centre Governance</p> <p>Appendix 2: FCC Pillars</p> <p>Appendix 3: Complex Lives Briefing</p>