



Subject:	Alleygating Programme: Phase 5 Funding – Response from Department of Justice
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes

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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention correspondence which has been received from the Department of Justice in response to a request from the Council for match funding for Phase 5 of the Alleygating Programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 23rd September, it approved a list of streets to be taken forward under Phase 5 of the Council's alleygating programme, with £500k to be allocated under the Capital Programme for delivery.
3.2	The Council, at its meeting on 3rd October, in ratifying that decision, agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Justice Minister requesting that the Department of Justice match the Council's allocation of £500k.

3.3	A response has been received from Mr. Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary in the Department of Justice, a copy of which is attached.
3.4	The Permanent Secretary begins by acknowledging the important work being undertaken by the Council around alleygating and the significant level of its investment.
3.5	In terms of the Council's request for match funding, he confirms that, given the ongoing priorities within the remit of the Department of Justice and the extraordinary constraints on its budget, the Department is not, at this time, in a position to provide funding. He points out that the Department has, in the past, used its powers to assist the Council when alley gates have been sought by residents to prevent access due to anti-social behaviour. However, this has usually been limited to interface areas and precedes adoption of the gates by the Council. On a small number of occasions, it has agreed to fund such measures, albeit that this has usually been on the recommendation of Policing colleagues for express and pressing community protection needs.
3.6	He goes on to state that the Department of Justice fully recognises the negative impact which antisocial behaviour can have on communities and that it is currently leading on a review of the legislation to ensure that the relevant authorities, such as councils, have effective and proportionate enforcement powers in place to tackle the issue.
3.7	He points out that the Department of Justice, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Policing Board, provides £826,516 annually to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, which lead on the Department's response to community safety issues at a local level. That funding is utilised by the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships across Belfast's districts to fund a range of projects and initiatives to address antisocial behaviour, including supporting the important work being delivered via the Holyland Intervention Project.
3.8	<p>The Permanent Secretary concludes by again stating that the Department of Justice is not in a position to providing funding on this occasion and by wishing the Council every success with the Programme.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Justice