



Our Ref: DB/wh/CE183

10 January 2024

BY EMAIL ONLY

John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
walshjohn@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear John

Thank you for your letter dated 13 December 2023, regarding Lagan Valley Regional Park and the request for us to contribute an additional £21k towards LVRP.

It is disappointing that the Department for Infrastructure withdrew the funding for 2023/24 for this collaborative project. At our Community and Wellbeing Committee the Members asked that we write to the Department, which we undertook to do so. To date I have not received correspondence from DfI regarding the budget situation for 2024/25.

One of my Directors, Louise Moore, has reached out to your Director, David Sales, a number of times but I am advised that he has moved positions so she is hoping to meet with Stephen Leonard on the 12 January 2024 to discuss the project and related considerations. This will include the Memorandum of Understanding, staffing structure, programmes and funding streams.

Like yourselves we are having to consider several budget cuts from Central Government and in particular their impact at a local level. To date we have discussed these issues in the Chamber and at Member workshops. Therefore, it would not be prudent for us to take through individual deficit requests which have a financial impact, rather we will consider these in the round to ensure Members are fully informed, prior to making any decisions.

I have requested that Louise continues to engage with Stephen in BCC and keep him apprised of our process and related outcomes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Burns', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

David Burns
CHIEF EXECUTIVE