

APPENDIX 1



Belfast City Council response to Upper Springfield Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's Action plan (2007)

Background

The Upper Springfield-Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was agreed in December 2005.

The composition and membership of the NRP is comprised of community representatives from the three local areas covered by the Upper Springfield-Whiterock NRA [Greater Turf Lodge, Greater New Barnsley and Greater Ballymurphy], political representatives, and representatives from some of the statutory agencies and organisations operating in the area.

The NRP meets on a regular basis and has recently formed sub groups in order to facilitate the NR Action Planning process and further inform the NRP Board in the future.

The Vision Statement for the Upper Springfield-Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Area

"The Upper Springfield-Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Area will be a vibrant, peaceful, clean, prosperous and safe place to live with its own positive identity. High quality, local services and facilities will provide opportunities for all local people to improve and fulfil their own health and well-being, education, social and economic potential.

A strong community infrastructure positively supported by local people and local business with coordinated public services that are responsive to local needs will be the model of partnership delivery."

The strategic priorities for neighbourhood renewal have been identified by DSD as:

- Community Renewal – to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods;
- Economic Renewal – to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy;
- Social Renewal – to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments; and
- Physical Renewal – to help create attractive, safe and sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

The council's input

Belfast City Council has been involved in a number of the sub-groups set up by the Partnership - and will continue to contribute to these.

A number of discreet actions in the plan identify Belfast City Council as either a lead or supporting partner in their delivery. As part of their consultation process the NR Partnership have now asked the council to make an official response to the actions.

Detailed below are **eighteen council-related actions** and a council response (established after discussions with the council's departments).

Strategic Theme: Community Renewal

Desired outcome:	Proactive engagement of all the community in NR & local volunteers actively involved in NR projects/ activities Volunteer opportunities
(1) Action sought:	Promotion of volunteer opportunities Provision of advice, info to existing local groups to recruit & retain volunteers Facilitate access to existing groups/ organisations/projects locally & at West Belfast level for capacity training & youth work & leadership training Initiation of NR Public Art projects Plan & deliver annual fun day
Resource implications:	Staff time and resources incl. materials £ for printing & promotion/PR Possible p/time worker £ for staff, artists, financial management, running costs, rent, supervision
Lead:	DSD, Belfast City Council
Support:	USWNRP DCAL

Council response: Noted.

The council has been an advocate for the importance of public art to the renewal agenda and the role of the local community in delivering projects.

There are possible contributions from our Artist in Residence who is involved in a number of community arts projects within the Upper Springfield area.

The council has responsibility for a number of parks and other open space in the area which may offer opportunities for public art projects.

Desired outcome: All NRA households aware of & updated on news, community services, facilities etc

(2) Action sought: **Produce & distribute quarterly community newsletter distributed to all NRA households**
Consider publication of a directory of local services

Resource implications: Staff time and resources
Print production & distribution costs

Lead: DSD

Support: **Belfast City Council**, USWNRP

Council response: Noted.

The council's new Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) is putting in place new 'Local Area Working' policies and processes that will allow the council to operate in a much more effective and joined-up manner at neighbourhood level. It will create mechanisms to allow it to engage at a local level in a more joined-up fashion in relation to, for example, the co-ordination of local events. The programme is currently developing area profiles which will detail what the council is doing in the area.

Our Leisure Services section can also supply quarterly information on programmes and activities for inclusion in programme.

Similarly, our Dog Warden service will contribute to a quarterly community newsletter. (Articles have already been forwarded previously.)

Our Community Development Worker, working from Whiterock Community Centre, has been closely involved in supporting a community magazine for the area. She is also involved in supporting the setting up of a Partnership website.

Our Parks team can also offer regular updates on projects in parks, playgrounds and open space in the area.

Desired outcome: Positive image of NRA portrayed in media - regular pro-active positive news and image stories in media
Increased community spirit/civic pride through sport, public art, events & programmes promoting the NRA
Promotion of USW as an area of public art using a positive image

(3) Action sought: Develop & implement a PR strategy for the NRA
Active marketing of community sporting events & programmes
Use public art to raise profile via media launches – link to West Belfast Public Art Strategy
Set up website
NRA Champion
Celebration / publicity for Local Young Peoples achievements

Resource implications: Engage PR expertise
£ for staff, artists, materials, financial management, running costs, rent, supervision

Lead: DSD

Support: Sports Council, DCAL, Existing community providers with relevant skills & experience, Partners to input stories/content, **Belfast City Council**

Council response: Noted.

The council has been an advocate for the importance of public art to the renewal agenda and the role of the local community in delivering projects.

The Council is keen to work within the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Public Art strategy and to pursue the development of a city wide Public Art strategy with a local dimension which could help guide future involvement in this type of activity.

There are possible contributions from our Artist in Residence who is involved in a number of community arts projects across the city.

Our Leisure Services will deliver programmes sports and physical activity events in the area as prioritised through the Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development strategy action plans

Strategic Theme: Economic Renewal

Desired outcome: More economically inactive & LTU people entering paid employment within the NRA & Belfast
 Removal of personal & structural barriers to employment
 Positive role models promoted
 Appropriate, adequate and effective access to free quality advice & advocacy service – drop in/home/outreach basis

(4) Action sought: **Maintain extensive existing services targeted at this issue & advice provision**
Additional essential skills training targeted at long term UE + assessment of the scale of the local problem
Support & mentoring to individuals to seek & enter into paid employment
Further development & targeting of the Job Assist Programme + Job Take-Aways initiative
Strengthen linkages & input from Employers Forum, ESB & The Employment Task Force
Training/work placements for local people
Establish independent welfare advice & debt management services throughout NRA
PR campaign positive role models
Review learnings from previous strategies

Resource implications: £ to maintain existing posts & services for Women, the Ballymurphy area, Turf Lodge area, Springhill area and services under the New Deal and Job Assist banners.
 Further use of existing statutory resources/ programmes

Lead: DEL

Support: DSD, **Belfast City Council**

Council response: Noted.

Local economic development has been an important strand of the council’s work for over a decade. Through its Local Economic Development Plan for the city, the council has focussed on a number of priorities which it believes are key to successful economic renewal. These have include supporting a culture of entrepreneurship, the support of the emerging social economy and employment projects that link employees to the local work force.

Fundamentally Belfast is a growing and increasingly strong city economy. However, the council recognises that many of our citizens are not benefiting fully from this growth. We believe that one of the key factors in this is labour market inactivity. In response we have made helping people into employment one of our priorities.

We particularly want to improve the employability of those people with significant employment gaps including those with disabilities and poor health; lone or disadvantaged parents; older workers; young people not in education, employment or training; women and people with no or low qualifications, and other disadvantaged groups, including those experiencing multiple disadvantage.

To ensure Belfast realises its full potential, and to address labour market disengagement, we are keen to work with key stakeholders to promote policies that offer incentives to citizens with no qualifications to take part in training schemes and gain formal qualifications.

The skills challenge facing Belfast is considerable with complex issues concerning failing labour market; the benefit trap problem; and the wide range of bodies involved in the skills and development arena. We are keen to take responsibility for leading a 'City Skills' strategy that pulls together the disparate strands of policy and stakeholders and supports a co-ordinated skills response for the city economy.

Local employment initiatives have been a key component of the council's current and previous economic development strategies. Key examples of this have been support for the Belfast GEMS project which was linked to the Gasworks and more recently the LEAP initiative in north Belfast, Stepping Stone in the east and through participation in the Employment Services Board in west Belfast. The council works closely with the Belfast's Employers Forum which has a particular interest in this issue.

The council will be keen to work with the Partnership to ensure that barriers – physical, educational and economic are reduced for the local community in west Belfast.

The council is working to increase the employment rate in the city by ensuring better linkages between employers and potential employees. The Belfast Employer Service Team (BEST), a collaboration of organisations including the council, have brought their employment expertise together to meet the needs of employers. BEST is seeking to provide an employer interface and supports community-based development organisations to maximise the exposure of their clients to potential job opportunities.

Our Leisure Services section is developing a work experience programme to attract individuals into the Leisure Industry.

Leisure Services are also submitting a Stage 2 application to the Big Lottery Fund 'Live and' Learn programme to improve employability in the Leisure Industry.

Desired outcome: Provision of an independent, free advice service located in the NRA that is actively used and assist with and signpost on a range of issues & concerns

(5) Action sought: **Maintain existing advice services & enhance promotion
Maximise use of existing facilities**

Resource implications: £ to maintain existing services – current service £300k per annum.

Lead: DSD

Support: **Belfast City Council**

Council response: Noted.

The council offers a number of advice services covering a wide range of issues including consumer advice, cleansing, building control issues and a variety of environmental health matters. The majority of these have developed mechanisms for engagement and support at a local level.

Whiterock community centre is a particularly important local resource in supporting advice service activity. The centre organises advice events on a wide range of areas including funding, employment opportunities, benefits advice, Health, Healthy Eating, Carers, etc.

Our Community Services West Team are currently exploring options to host advice sessions at all of our community centres that would bring together a range of advice services funded by the council.

The team also offer specific advice, support, monitoring and assessment on the council's community grant aid programme.

Desired outcome: More young people gaining a meaningful education leaving school with the necessary qualifications and life skills to fulfil their potential

(6) Action sought: **Maintain & expand current holistic support for parents & young people to develop a range of skills & qualifications in formal & informal settings – homework clubs, parenting classes
Further development of youth outreach work & links with referring organisations**

Resource implications: £ to maintain existing community based family support service
Extended schools initiative £ used

Lead: CCMS, BELB, DE

Support: DSD

Council response: Noted.

It should be noted that Belfast City Council is currently participating in the Full Service Community Network at Corpus Christi College in pursuit of this action.

Desired outcome: New social economy ideas and opportunities actively identified and considered + additional opportunities for growth of existing enterprises

(7) Action sought: **Explore procurement opportunities with statutory bodies + link to social economy network, school of social entrepreneurs**
Conduct best practice visits

Resource implications: Staff time and resources
£ for best practice visits

Lead: USWNRP

Support: Social Economy Network, LEAs / Invest NI, **Belfast City Council**

Council response: Noted.

For many years the council’s Economic Development and Procurement units have focussed on promoting entrepreneurship and growth opportunities for all businesses including social economy enterprises.

Specific interventions such as our Neighbourhood Economic Development programme aim to support locally based social enterprises in developing the capacity to plan and grow their business.

Our Enterprise Officer is actively engaged in trying to increase the number of new business starts across the city. This work is done by undertaking a structured programme of outreach activity and the council would be keen to work with the community to ensure that those who are interested can avail of the service.

The council carries out significant procurement throughout the year and we are keen to work with local suppliers – including social economy enterprises – to ensure that they have a full opportunity to bid for council work. Every year we purchase about £40 million of goods and services, from paper supplies to new bin lorries or building work. Our procurement team are available to offer advice on the procurement process and are involved in ‘Meet the Buyer’ events where potential suppliers can meet council representatives.

Strategic Theme: Social Renewal

Desired outcome: Health related physical activity programming including for children

(8) Action sought: **Direct links between Healthy Living Centre and Sports Unit Programmes agreed between relevant service providers
Improved play areas**

Resource implications: Additional £

Lead: DHSSPS

Support: **Belfast City Council**

Council response: Noted.

The council is keen to see that its leisure services can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access.

Our Leisure Services section can explore potential of service level agreements with local groups to deliver Physical Activity programmes in the community. Leisure services can work with Healthy Living Centres to determine the benefits of outreach programmes delivered in the community by Council staff.

Working through our Whiterock Community Centre we deliver a range of activities such as health events, Disability and Sports Days and a five week summer scheme for both 5 to 11 year olds and 12 to 16 year olds. The centre also delivers a Midnight Soccer programme which includes supporting workshops.

There is also potential for linkages with our Parks team in jointly exploring the role of play space in the area in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration. A representative of our Parks team already sits on the Partnership's Environmental subgroup.

Current Parks projects in the area include the replacement of the Moyard playground later this year; the reinstatement of the Whiterock Leisure and Community complex playground and plans for surrounding unused area; and the redesign of Springhill Millennium Park to include play facilities.

The council's health development unit are also interested in exploring opportunities to work alongside health partners on issues around tackling obesity particularly through the promotion of healthy eating.

- Desired outcome: Zero tolerance and incidence of anti-social behaviour
Increased participation & programmes aimed at tackling
Reduced crime
Support services available to children in school
Parents recognise the remit of the school in community issues/disputes
- (9) Action sought: Maintain current community-statutory Intervention Programme & ensure its objectives are line with the NR action plan
Further programmes conducted in line with best practice e.g. midnight soccer programme
Persistent offenders actively managed
Tenants sign community charter
Review the potential use of CCTV at known hot spots
Initiate a local debate about use of ASBOs in the NRA
Programme of engagement with young people & parents – alternative activities established
Visible local police presence
Targeted use of alleygating at known hot spots
- Resource implications: £ for outreach youth workers + intervention programme costs
Volunteer programme costs
- Lead: DSD for £ posts + all government departments/ agencies involved in the Intervention Programme
- Support: Parents & residents, Community based organisations, USWNRP, Community Watch, PBNI, **Belfast City Council** & NIHE for alley-gating
- Council response: The Belfast Community Safety Partnership is currently planning its future activity and is encouraging on-going community participation in the process. A community engagement approach is central our work and we are reviewing the best way to link to communities of interest and geography; to increase local involvement in the planning, management and evaluation of community safety in the future.

In the Upper Springfield area the Partnership has been closely involved with both the Upper Springfield Safer Neighbourhood Forum (USSNF) and the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership in addressing such issues as the 'Ballymurphy feud' and ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour and crime.

The Partnership has already provided funding for an Upper Springfield Safer Neighbourhood Coordinator (until March 2008) to allow other funding to be secured. It is encouraging greater alignment between the USSNF and existing policy frameworks such as Neighbourhood Renewal and Extended Schools.

The Partnership supports the work of Anti-Social Behaviour Forums in west Belfast where the city council, alongside the Police Service for NI, the NI Housing Executive and the Youth Justice Agency come together to review the most serious anti-social behaviour cases and to develop interventions. The city council is also developing its own an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy which will incorporate services relating to Noise, Dangerous Dogs, etc.

The Partnership works with Belfast Education and Library Board to fund diversionary activities via youth outreach workers. It also runs a small grants programme with an emphasis on reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and diversionary activities – these themes will be reviewed as part of future planning.

A Community Safety Coordinator for North and West Belfast is available to work with the partnership on community safety issues.

The Get Home Safe Project includes a number of projects that are relevant to reducing alcohol related crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. For example the 'Are You a Dealer' campaign aims to reduce sale of alcohol to underage young people, or those adults who provide alcohol to young people. It also runs a campaign in partnership with EDACT and local drug and alcohol forums on the topic of parental responsibility and underage drinking.

The council's Community Services Unit will work with the the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership to address issues of anti-social behaviour through programme support, shared learning, and information.

The council plans to roll out an alley-gating scheme across the city over the next two to three years. However, we are still in the process of establishing criteria for successful projects. The Community Safety Partnership are keen to discuss the emerging process with the NR Partnership

The council is also keen to see that its leisure services can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership and others to examine this action.

The extension of out of hours programmes managed by sports bodies should also be considered as contributing to these outcomes.

Desired outcome:	Community and Youth Centres open on evenings & weekends & during holiday periods Upgraded Newhill Youth Club & Community Centre Safe environments for young people to socialise & play School supporting through the extended schools initiative
(10) Action sought:	£ to maintain current 4 youth club services in the NRA + provision of additional YC/CC hours + some refurbishments + development courses for youth leaders Alternative venues for YP to socialise Better sharing of existing sports & leisure facilities – mapping exercise Programme of communication & awareness Links with youth providers & strategy to lobby government policy Facilities to enable performing arts/dance/drama + public arts activities
Resource implications:	£ to maintain current service provision & to expand hours via additional youth workers & volunteers £ for mapping exercise Staff time & resources £ for extension of facilities
Lead:	Belfast City Council
Support:	Existing community based service providers and clubs, USWNRP, BELB, DCAL
Council response:	The council will continue to play an important role in regard to youth provision with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in both the Whiterock Community Centre and the Leisure Centre.

The community centre has a wide ranging programme for young people. As well as the usual club activities we have workshops on car crime, anti-bullying, relationships, drugs awareness and

alcohol awareness. We also offer Community Relations basketball training one night a week in Wellington College.

In particular, the Co-ordinator of services to Children and Young People based within the Community Services unit, and the council-supported Youth Forum would be important resources in delivering this action.

The council is also keen to see that its leisure services can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership and others to examine this action.

Whiterock Leisure and Community complex park, with almost 200,000 customers each year, offers an important local resource offering, for example, a youth midnight soccer programme.

Our Parks and Cemeteries section has a number of current projects in the area including the replacement of the Moyard playground later this year; the reinstatement of the Whiterock Leisure and Community complex park playground and plans for unused area around the centre; and the redesign of Springhill Millennium Park to include play facilities. The team are also in discussion with partners over the development of the Sliabh Dubh site. A representative of our Parks team sits on the Partnership's Environmental subgroup and can liaise on these subjects.

Our Culture and Arts unit have guided the creation of a new integrated cultural strategy for the city – a strategy that recognises the contribution can play to the local economy. Our culture and arts team can work with the Partnership to explore the opportunities offered by the strategy.

As part of a Development and Outreach programme, the council's culture and arts unit can support partnership in exploring opportunities for cultural projects and their contribution to renewal.

Desired outcome:	Older participants in a varied programme of activities as a group and with other local groups
(11) Action sought:	Maintain current befriending service, community care programmes & senior citizens club Conduct needs survey to establish regular programme of visits & events incl. public art projects, crafts & hobbies – low cost Actively encourage older people to attend existing daytime/evening classes & programmes Representation on the NRP and/or other local community/residents groups
Resource implications:	£ to maintain current services £ to facilitate subsidising cost of existing programmes/classes & provision of transport
Lead:	BHSC
Support:	Current community based service providers, USWNR, Belfast City Council
Council response:	Noted.

The council's Community Services unit can offer support in developing inclusive activities for older people on the local community. The local community centre is already a resource for local voluntary activity and the unit would be keen to work with the Partnership on priorities focussing on older people.

The Centre offers an Older Person's Club each week with a range of activities and lunch. We also have Benefit Check days, health education events and recently offered a local Community Safety event. We offer assistance on seeking funding from social services, etc and we have arranged trips and provide transport for our club members.

The council has made a specific commitment to responding to the needs of older people and has a series of facilities and schemes including discount scheme for our leisure centres, community centre activities; Safety of Seniors events and assisted lift bin collections.

We have an Older Persons Working Group which was set up to our services are suitably adapted to meet the specific needs of older people. The group is developing an action plan and will be hosting a related Older Persons convention in May 2008.

Our Leisure Services section are currently reviewing the programmed activities for older people with a view to establishing 'Active Living' groups in all centres.

The Belfast Community Safety Partnership, of which the council is a member, currently funds work with older people through the Safety of Seniors project, and also through an Intergenerational Project. We are currently reviewing these projects as part of our plans for post 2008. We also work with Good Morning Projects across Belfast, including Good Morning West Belfast, which is based in the Upper Springfield area.

Desired outcome:	Ethnic minority population welcomed by all in the NRA – engagement & participation in local clubs & organisations
(12) Action sought:	Education & awareness of needs & concerns of ethnic minorities within local community Additional transport to encourage attendance at groups/leave the home Free childcare places to facilitate attendance at classes & groups
Resource implications:	£ & staff to conduct awareness programme £ for transport & additional crèche places
Lead:	DSD
Support:	USWNRP, DHSSPS, Community organisations
Council response:	Noted.

While not indicated against this particular action, the council wished to note that its Good Relations unit has resources for working with the migrant community and would be keen to work with the Partnership in sharing best practice.

The Unit has convened a Shadow Migrant Working group to increase partnership working across the city on issues relating to inward migration and migrant worker communities. The forum can also offer advice and assistance on initiatives to address social cohesion and the integration of migrant worker communities.

The Unit is developing an application for a significant amount of funding under Peace III Priority 1.1 'Building Positive Relations at the Local Level' which will be available to community organisations to carry out a range of work around this theme.

The Good Relations grant aid programme, with grants up to £10,000 is available to (e.g.):

- build awareness, dispel myths and stereotypes and address sectarianism and/or racism;
- promote and encourage trust and mutual understanding through dialogue, learning about others and developing meaningful relationships;
- provide space to deal with the past and address issues of mutual interest or concern in relation to the Shared Future document and/or the Race Equality Strategy; and
- improve shared civic life by building sustainable networks to transform contested space and identity and implement collaborative actions.'

The Good Relations Unit has also submitted an application for funding to the Arts Council of N Ireland for funding under its Re-Imaging Communities funding programme to work with communities to reimagine the area in a way that now reflects where communities are at. The Unit's Conflict Transformation Project is currently producing research that will also pinpoint areas for development and involvement.

Once again the council's Community Services unit can offer support in developing inclusive activities in the local community. The local community centre is already a resource for such activity and the unit would be keen to work with the Partnership on ensuring people from the minority ethnic community have access to services.

Strategic Theme: Economic Development

Desired outcome:	Litter free streets, Clean streets, No dog dirt, Local residents managing their domestic rubbish, No rubbish dumping
(13) Action sought:	<p>More rubbish bins & dog bins (with bags) on streets / outside shops etc - cleared regularly</p> <p>Advertise & enforce litter, & dog fouling laws & penalties</p> <p>Additional promotion / information re: blue bin recycling & criteria for 2nd / larger bin</p> <p>Better co-ordination of street cleaning with bin collections</p> <p>Education –anti-litter workshops in schools, youth groups, community groups</p> <p>Encourage responsible dog ownership – targeted visible dog warden presence</p> <p>Investigate feasibility of providing a local recycling facility</p> <p>Test potential for a social economy/ litter collection graffiti clean up company</p>
Resource implications:	<p>Installation & clearing of additional bins</p> <p>Cost of additional signage, promotion & enforcement</p> <p>Minimal: re-distribution of appropriate information material</p> <p>Rescheduling street cleaning after bin collections</p> <p>Extension of existing Captain Cleanup & other community awareness programmes into area</p> <p>Focus of dog warden resource for specific period of time</p> <p>Cost of installation & on-going clearance</p>
Lead:	Belfast City Council
Support:	USWNRP, Residents Associations
Council response:	<p>Staff from the council’s cleansing service are available to meet to discuss particular cleansing issues in the area.</p> <p>Representatives from Cleansing Services, Community Awareness, Enforcement and operational teams service are available to meet with the Partnership to provide a full picture of current activities and to discuss support in the future.</p> <p>Our Cleansing Forums holds quarterly meetings as a way for community groups and individuals to work with Cleansing Services and we encourage the Partnership to join the forum. (More details including dates, times and venues on the council’s website)</p> <p>Cleansing offers a range of community engagement activities from community talks, workshops, youth activities (e.g.) summer schemes and school workshops and visits alongside specific community focused anti-litter projects.</p> <p>The council’s Park team are responsible for the maintenance of the local parks in the area and are also available for discussion on local cleansing issues. A representative of our Parks team sits on the Partnership’s Environmental subgroup.</p> <p>Our Waste Management Service is available to review recycling provision in the area and will work with local communities to ensure that education activities for recycling are available. A team are also available to work with schools on recycling issues.</p> <p>Staff from our dog warden service are keen to work with the Partnership. Representatives from the dog wardens are available to provide information on their role, their current activities and to discuss support in the future. In particular, information can be supplied in relation to dog fouling and other related nuisance.</p>

The dog warden service also offers a range of community engagement activities from community talks, school visits and specific community focused anti-fouling projects.

Every household in Belfast now has access to a recycling kerbside collection for home. In addition, there are recycling centres on the Springfield Road. The Service is also devising new methods of recycling more bulky household which can also be collected for free from households. The Waste Management Service is currently working with the Upper Springfield Development Trust to open up new avenues of communication and to assess the potential for additional recycling facilities within the area.

As with other parts of the city, the Waste Management Service periodically reviews recycling provision in the area and will implement improvements where necessary. Education activities for recycling can be carried out in conjunction with the local community.

Desired outcome: All graffiti is removed and does not reoccur – the community is educated and involved
Environmental regeneration addressing vandalism & physical degradation

(14) Action sought: **Use of public arts projects with children, young people and residents**

Resource implications: Staff time & resources + artists & materials

Lead: **Belfast City Council**, DCAL

Support: Residents associations, USWNRP

Council response: The council has been an advocate for the importance of public art to the renewal agenda and the role of the local community in delivering projects.

There are possible contributions from our Artist in Residence who is involved in a number of community arts projects across the city.

Representatives from the Council’s Cleansing Services, Community Awareness, Enforcement and operational teams service are available to meet with the Partnership to provide a full picture of current activities and to discuss support in the future.

There are technical and legal issues around the removal of graffiti which the council can discuss with the Partnership.

The Council’s West Belfast Cleansing Forum holds quarterly meetings as a way for community groups and individuals to work with Cleansing Services and we encourage the Partnership to join the forum.

Cleansing offers a range of community engagement activities from community talks, workshops, youth activities (eg) summer schemes and school workshops and visits alongside specific community focused anti-litter projects.

Various workshops have been organised at Whiterock Community Centre including environmental workshops on waste management

and recycling. The centre has encouraged young people from 5 to 16 to participate in such projects.

Our Community Awareness Team have facilitated cleanups in different parts of the city. The Team also visits schools promoting the anti-litter message.

The council's citywide Safer Neighbourhoods pilot project – which includes work in west Belfast – is also tackling the issue of graffiti.

The council also manage a Roaming Wardens Project in which a team of wardens are allocated to appropriate areas across the city (on a temporary basis) through consultation with various partners. These wardens can act as a mechanism for the reporting of anti-social behaviour including graffiti.

The Waste Management Service will investigate the potential for the creation of public art from Waste Materials. These can be arranged in conjunction with the Council's Resident Artist to ensure that the require quality thresholds and public acceptability are met.

Desired outcome: Safe, attractive and fully equipped play areas

(15) Action sought: **Secure areas at night – no entry**
Review use of and install CCTV
Additional evening diversionary activities/ venues for young people

Resource implications: Nigh time security measures
£ for additional evening facilities/ programmes

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: USWNRP

Council response: The council plays a key role in the Belfast Community Safety Partnership which recommends that strong links are developed with Belfast District Policing Partnership to support more responsive and accountable policing.

The council is also part of Anti Social Behaviour Forums that have been established in north, south, east and west Belfast, where NIHE, PSNI, and the council come together to discuss ASB cases and agree action to be taken. Information can be supplied to any one of these agencies regarding anti-social behaviour and they will determine whether or not to take further action.

Our Community Services unit will work with the Area Partnership to address issues of anti-social behaviour through programme support and resources, best practice initiatives, shared learning and information.

Our Community Development Worker is involved in a range of local safety issues including the Upper Springfield Safer Neighbourhood Forum – which is funded by the Community Safety Partnership, the Upper Springfield/Whiterock Intervention Project, and the Upper Springfield/Whiterock Youth Provider’s Forum.

There is potential for the proposed action to tie in with the council’s existing leisure programme for youth, for example, the Midnight Soccer League which has been organised at various council facilities.

Our Parks and Cemeteries section would also be keen to talk to the Partnership about issues of safety and open space – particularly focussing on plans for Springhill Memorial Park.

Desired outcome: Safer roads, less congestion and slower traffic on key routes with space for safely parked vehicles

(16) Action sought: **Comprehensive scheme needed to take into account range of factors – housing development, school safety, shop delivery times, traffic light sequencing, integrated transport facilities and pedestrians.
Improved parking & enforcement of restrictions
Speed cameras at key locations – New Barnsley**

Resource implications: Staff time to develop scheme

Lead: DRD

Support: **Belfast City Council**

Council response: Noted.

The council has actively supported the concept of physical renewal projects which enhance the re-invigoration of local business and communities along Belfast's arterial routes.

However, much of our Renewing the Routes programme is already in place or reaching a final stage of work (due to the end of funding streams). A number of previously agreed projects are on-going under IDF funding.

These agreed projects under the current Integrated Development Fund include:

- Improvements to the commercial environment
- Public realm improvements
- Enhancement of open space areas including public art
- Measures to address anti-social behaviour and improve public safety
- Environmental management or cleansing projects

Following extensive community and statutory consultation the council will this year implement a complete resurfacing of the road junction at Springfield Road that looks specifically at resurfacing the entire junction and addressing the needs of pedestrians.

Desired outcome: Equal access and right of disabled people to access services and live in a clean and healthy environment

(17) Action sought: **Comprehensive scheme needed to take into account range of factors –
Access to buildings/counters DDA compliant
Appropriate street lighting to reduce fear
Traffic lights need to be accessible & provide longer time to cross
Additional pelican crossings & pedestrian walkways
Need for flat surfaces for wheelchairs
Additional car park spaces for disabled drivers with penalties enforced for misuse**

Resource implications: Staff time to develop scheme

Lead: DOE, DRD, **Belfast City Council**

Support:

Council response: Noted.

Our Leisure Services section are considering the appointment of a Sports Development Officer focussing on disability issues

Following extensive community and statutory consultation Belfast City Council will this year implement a complete resurfacing of the road junction at Springfield / Whiterock Road that looks specifically at resurfacing the entire junction and addressing the needs of pedestrians.

Desired outcome: Positive and productive community led forum

(18) Action sought: **Establish open space forum similar to the existing forum in Lagmore**

Resource implications: Staff time and resources

Lead: NIHE, **Belfast City Council**

Support: USWNRP

Council response: Our Parks and Cemeteries Service can work with the Partnership to expand the opportunities presented by open space in the Partnership area to contribute to the wider renewal work context. Parks have an outreach worker available to facilitate such work.

The Service will work with the Partnership to seek to improve, protect and promote the provision of open space which is accessible to all. At all time the council must function within physical, human and financial constraints.

In particular our Leisure Services would welcome the establishment of a forum which could consider actions to enhance the contribution of local leisure centres to the community

Appendix 1: Boundary of Upper Springfield/Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Area



Belfast Mapping Data
Prepared by SNAP
Based upon the
Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map
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