



City Growth and Regeneration

Committee Plan 2024- 2025

Quarter 2 update



Belfast
City Council

Key Programmes of work

Our Economy

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
Support access to sustainable employment opportunities and improve skills levels for target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver employment and upskilling academies in priority sectors in line with industry demand, focusing on inclusive growth target areas. ▪ Extend the Digital Badging scheme to enhance employer engagement and provide opportunities for people to build their skills portfolio. ▪ Support management of Labour Market Partnership including delivery of key projects (Gateways to Choices, Bridges to Progression, Multiply) and working with LMP partners to identify opportunities for new interventions that deliver city priorities. ▪ Engage with relevant statutory and VCSE partners to create greater cohesiveness across the E&S ecosystem and to shape future economic inactivity support (from April 2025). ▪ Explore opportunities to use social value and developer contributions to support skills development and employment activities. ▪ Support delivery of the benefits of first phase of BRCD delivery by integration and alignment with economic development and skills programmes. ▪ Develop an updated economic proposition demonstrating the critical role of Belfast and the Belfast Region in creating good jobs, supporting innovation and driving productivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment Academies - 480 places currently allocated across 24/25 - opened for first intake in September. ▪ Upskilling Academies - 240 places currently allocated across 24/25 - currently has 193 people participating with the remaining 47 people to begin before end Q3. ▪ Digital Badging: to date we have created 217 digital badges across all of our Employment Academies and have issued 2,721 badges to 685 people completing with an acceptance rate of 87%. Encouraging other organisations to adopt Digital Badging has meant that a further 73 badges have been created and 3,601 issued to 1,084 people, acting as micro-credentials for people’s skill levels. We are also working with Corporate, HR DfC, CCEA and OCN to expand the use of digital badging. ▪ LMP: EPIC Futures is currently undertaking an external evaluation of LMP, with SIB having completed a positive interim evaluation. Gateway to Choices is supporting 1,381 people, including 222 people with a disability. ▪ Social value requirements: We continue to provide support to a various stakeholders, including Translink and wider Council. 	G On Track
Support business start-up and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) to increase the number of new business-starts and to support business growth. ▪ Undertake the ‘Lead Council’ role on NIESS, in line with funder MoU obligations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NIESS has been operational since Nov 2023 – led by Belfast City Council on behalf of the 11 councils. Since launch, for Belfast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1984 individuals 'reached' through community outreach activities. - 693 entrepreneurs supported through start up activity (1-1 mentoring) and 519 accessing masterclass activity. 	G On Track

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure financial support for NIESS extension beyond March 2025. ▪ Support the operation of the Innovation Factory, in line with agreed Annual Service Plan obligations. ▪ Support the delivery of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) with at least 114 businesses accessing support over two financial years. ▪ Support the development and integration of BRCD digital and challenge fund programmes with business support programmes. ▪ Develop a targeted approach to social enterprise support in order to meet the target of 10% social enterprises engaging on NIESS. ▪ Continue to work with Community Finance Ireland CFI to improve the financial management skills of new and growing social enterprises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 555 businesses supported through growth activity (1-1 mentoring) and 849 Belfast businesses accessing masterclasses. - 110 entrepreneurs/businesses have accessed Go Succeed Grants since the launch in February 2024. ▪ On behalf of each of the 11 councils Belfast City Council has been working closely with MHCLG to secure funding for delivery post March 2025. This position will be confirmed following the budget on 30 Oct. Engagement is also ongoing with DfE to secure funding transfer aligned with councils' statutory remit. ▪ Occupancy at the Innovation Factory is now at 83%, we are working closely with the operator to achieve their annual service plan obligations. This includes support around the development of a 3-year strategic plan and a review of reporting and governance. ▪ 20 businesses are successfully receiving specific funding through the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) for this period. 84 businesses have engaged in DTFF workshops and submitted Expression of Interests. 35 Belfast businesses will submit applications for Call 3 of the DTFF, with assessment panels schedule for Oct 24. We setup a peer support network to help organisations starting digital transformation. ▪ Engaged with various City deal projects to shape benefits realisation plans to support SMEs. We established the Advanced Media Production (AMP) capacity programme to address key barriers to growth for creative digital SMEs to engage with facilities including Studio Ulster as well as the Fintech support programme, to help support the growth of local businesses through supply chain, export and networking opportunities. ▪ Working with the Innovation Belfast team to support local businesses participate in the Augment the City and 5G Innovation challenges. 6 local business have been involved in Phase 1 of Augment the City and received funding with phase 2 launched Sep 2024. The 5G Innovation fund has been promoted extensively to local businesses with applications closing Sep 2024. ▪ Through our Go Social programme, we target those thinking of starting up a new business as a social enterprise or co-operative. To date we have 25 participants engaging in 1-2-1 mentoring support. We are also continuing to work with Community Finance Ireland (CFI) in supporting our Social Economy Incentive Fund. This will provide grants of up to £10,000 to new 	
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		or developing social economy businesses in early growth stages, or in need of support to begin trading in the next six months. Our Go Social support will also provide wraparound mentoring and guidance to those businesses availing of the fund.	
Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the corridor strategy to agree priority areas of focus and support the delivery of targeted economic development interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic conference planned for 22 Oct has been rescheduled to Q1 2025, due to potential elections in the ROI impacting participation. Belfast City Council hosted a visit by officials from Dublin City Council on the 16th & 17th Sept in order to build and maintain city relations. DBEC, supported by Belfast City Council, has submitted a proposal to the Dep. of Environment, Climate and Communications in ROI to develop recommendations from the Connected Circular Economy work. DBEC is developing further funding applications against other project areas, and members will continue to be updated on progress. 	A On Track with some delay
Support city markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure delivery of the annual business plan for St George's Market. Support the delivery of the Christmas Continental Market. Review the markets rights policy in order to ensure that it supports the operation of independent markets across the city, to enhance animation and vibrancy. Ensure effective management of Smithfield Market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual business plan is under delivery and continues to progress. The 2024 Christmas Continental Market is in its 20th year and is now booked to run from 16 Nov to 22 Dec 2024. A review of the Markets Rights and the Storage policies are currently underway. Smithfield continues to be managed by the Markets unit, it is old building and part of the BCC Masterplan for the area, so some areas require constant maintenance. 	G On Track
Belfast Business Promise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend business engagement in Belfast Business Promise, supporting 50 companies to engage in the programme. Undertake interim evaluation to identify optimal approach to future resourcing and delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 companies are currently signed up to BBP, with further technical panels planned for Oct to approve the membership status of applicants. An interim evaluation has been commissioned to identify the optimal approach to future delivery. 	G On Track

Our Place

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
Housing-Led Regeneration - Support and work with partners to address housing challenges	Competitive Dialogue Process to attract private sector partner / investor to take forward Housing Led Regeneration mixed use development opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of Private Sector Development /Investor Partner (on completion of the current Competitive Dialogue Exercise) in respect of a number of BCC strategic sites that will act as a master developer to deliver residential-led, mixed-use developments in support of the city’s growth targets, delivering on key regeneration objectives, social value and economic impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public procurement exercise to appoint a Private Sector Partner (PSP) has successfully been concluded and a report is scheduled to go to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee prior to finalising the process. 	G On Track
	Strategic Site Assessments Phase 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete planning, site appraisals and feasibility studies for BCC lands identified within the city-wide Strategic Site Assessments. Progress site development and/or disposal options as appropriate following Member engagement and approvals and embedding social value and maximising the economic impact of such development. Continue to work through the Community Planning Partnership Housing-Led Regeneration Group to complete collation of all public sector land data and analysis of housing led opportunities utilising the LDP Urban Capacity Study and Housing Monitor. Progress, as appropriate, with other public sector partners opportunities for placemaking pilots and housing-led regeneration on wider public sector lands. Continue working with relevant public and private sector bodies to identify wider potential housing development opportunities and bring forward proposals that may unblock challenges to delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing process with Strategic Site Assessments to review sites for their availability for development together with planning assessments that provide high-level indicative housing led development proposals. Updates on sites identified through the Strategic Site Assessments process have been presented to the Area Working Groups earlier this year (May/June). Members were advised that assessments were being undertaken independently on those sites, identified as feasible, in order to assess respective land values. Crucially that informs viability to deliver development with or without some form of intervention. Members are asked to note the further detail as set out in August and October’s Housing Led Regeneration reports to CGR Committee in respect of this extensive workstream. With planning appraisals and viability assessments complete now across a number of sites a subsequent report is to be brought shortly to the SP&R committee with recommendations on the delivery options of this initial tranche of sites. 	G On Track
	Inner North-West Development Brief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the Development Brief, alongside DfC (as joint landowner) and development process for lands in the Inner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Housing Led Regeneration reports to CGR Committee in August and October, the Inner NW brief has closed with submissions received from the Housing Associations. Work is ongoing on the evaluation phases, and in relation to issues raised with respect to viability and infrastructure issues. 	A On Track with

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
	<p>North-West (INW) Northern Cluster to bring forward a Housing-Led Regeneration scheme.</p>		some delay
	<p>Funding models to deliver housing based placemaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advance the Place-Based Growth Proposition including the lobbying and advocacy work aimed at devolving and increasing regeneration funding and with a focus on Housing-Led Regeneration and placemaking purposes. ▪ Progress proposal for the reframing of the City Centre Investment Fund to support Housing Led Regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing work including lobbying at recent Ministerial meetings. Work is ongoing in respect of sharpening the narrative and the ‘ask’. ▪ The review of the City Centre Investment Fund has been undertaken, noting alignment in underpinning the need to bring forward interventions to support delivery and unlock housing led regeneration. 	G On Track
Connectivity and City Infrastructure	<p>A Bolder Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update and finalise A Bolder Vision (ABV) in line with the Eastern Transport Plan, including the SEA consultation. ▪ Secure Council and Ministerial approval. ▪ Align delivery with Corporate and PfG priorities including Belfast Agenda, LDP and corporate /city project prioritisation processes. ▪ Maintain public visibility and engagement with stakeholders through comms and engagement programme. ▪ Agree and commence city centre partnership projects with key stakeholders in line with ABV interventions. ▪ Work with DfC and DfI to ensure public realm projects are delivered in line with ABV, adopting an integrated placemaking and sustainable mobility approach. ▪ Under “Embracing the River” and through the Waterfront Taskforce progress implementation of the Waterfront Promenade Framework including progressing the agreed priority projects for delivery including the Under the Bridge and Sailortown Bridge projects as well as working with communities to realise the full potential of the Waterfront opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing work with DfI and DfC in respect of reviewing the ‘A Bolder Vision’ strategy in line with the emerging Eastern Transport Plan City Centre Chapter. Note DfI are advancing the ETP city centre chapter, which is expected to be completed by early 2025. ▪ On going public realm works at Grand Central Station. Design and Planning is ongoing with Little York St/Little Patrick St, Blackstaff Sq and the 5C’s. ▪ Ongoing work including building funding cases to advance ‘Under the Bridges and Sailortown Bridge’ proposals. 	A On Track with some delay

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
	<p>Citywide Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to create a more connected city by using existing and new greenways, urban greenways and existing and enhanced green spaces connecting the North, South, East and West of the city as well as the city centre. ▪ Agree and progress partnership projects with key stakeholders (QUB, UU, BIDs, BHC) in line with ABV interventions including Under the Bridges project and Active Travel Enablers as well as projects emerging from the Eastern Transport Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing work including building funding cases to advance ‘Under the Bridges and Sailortown Bridge’ proposals. 	G On Track
	<p>Belfast Bikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversee the development and delivery of the public bike hire scheme. ▪ Undertake a tender exercise to procure a new operator for scheme from Dec 2024 onwards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSL continues to operate the Belfast Bike Scheme via a contract extension until Dec 2024. ▪ The Tender for the new operator is now live. ▪ There were 73,608 journeys recorded during H1, ↑ 2% on the same period the previous year. 	A On Track with some delay
	<p>City Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to champion the Council's preferred position for major infrastructure projects. ▪ Continue to represent Council and play a key role on city-wide boards facilitating, enabling and influencing major infrastructure development and investment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ York Street Interchange; ○ BRT Phase 2; ○ Belfast Cycle Network; ○ Living With Water project; ○ Belfast Streets Ahead; and ○ Weaver’s Cross. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our work to champion the Council's preferred position is ongoing and has been strengthened within the emerging integrated prioritisation team, with Dfl, on the Eastern Transport Plan city centre chapter. ▪ We are continuing to feed council’s position into the various major infrastructure boards. 	G On Track

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
Strategic regeneration and investment schemes	Tribeca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress options for vesting and /or acquisition by agreement of the Tribeca site including valuation and funding options, subject to agreement on a commercial and resourcing strategy. Explore options to bring the Assembly Rooms into Council ownership and consideration of future development and use options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing, with regular updates to the SP&R Committee and the City Regeneration Members Working Group. 	A At risk
	2 Royal Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure the Long-term use of 2 Royal Avenue in line with council's objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Expressions of Interest period closed at the end of June 2024, and an update was reported to August's Committee. Briefs have now been issued and the deadline on submissions is early November. 	A On Track with some delay
	The Sixth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress options for the future use and development of the Sixth in partnership with the council's LLP partner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the Sixth is ongoing. 	G On Track
	Dunbar Regeneration Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress comprehensive regeneration scheme at Dunbar bringing together council and private sector assets to deliver comprehensive placemaking redevelopment co-ordinated through a joint master-planning approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has advanced with private sector landowners in the area, an MOU has been agreed, and an inception meeting is being scheduled on the masterplan development. Note the Dunbar depot relocation is the first step on the critical path to this. 	A On Track with some delay
	Arterial Routes Regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposals to address the regeneration of arterial routes aligned to existing and proposed programmes of work (including Vibrant Business Destinations, Housing-Led Placemaking pilots, Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area-Based Community Plans) in the context of previous initiatives including Renewing the Routes, Business Cluster & Community Grants and Dereliction, in line with the emerging ambitions of the Eastern Transport Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is being sought from a number of potential funders to enable the delivery of a city wide vacant to vibrant programme. 	G On Track

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
	<p>Regeneration Framework and Place Based Growth Proposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress and embed the Regeneration Framework approach to prioritise city and council priorities. ▪ Progress the Advocacy and Lobbying programme of work aligned to the Place Based Growth Proposition for Belfast and ensure alignment with priorities identified by the Regeneration Framework process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing implementation of the regeneration framework. ▪ Lobbying and advocacy continues as reported above e.g. messaging at a recent Ministerial meeting. And sharpening the narrative and the ‘ask’ from Council. 	<p>G On Track</p>
	<p>Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to progress (with partners) projects and interventions identified within BCCRIS. ▪ Take forward a ten-year review of BCCRIS building on the work of the recent Regeneration Trackers, to inform city and council priorities going forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There has been an extensive programme of engagement on BCCRIS from June – August. This included PGLs, public and private sector, and industry specific as well as a number of on-line and in person community engagement sessions; to shape and inform the review. Additionally, there has been desktop based evidence building on annual regeneration trackers. Emerging areas of focus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increasing city centre living; ○ unlocking major regeneration opportunities including Tribeca; ○ continuing the transformation of the Waterfront through the vision in the Belfast Waterfront Promenade Framework; ○ ensuring the protection and preservation of our built heritage; ○ sustainable urbanisation to support decarbonisation; ○ ensuring the city centre is well managed, clean, vibrant, unique and thriving through animation, shared space and diversification of uses– capitalising on Belfast’s distinct draw which will support hospitality, retail, SMEs, social enterprises, tourism and the nighttime economy; ○ Bolder Vision including public realm development, to support inclusive placemaking including further delivery of ABV, recognising that the ETP Belfast City Centre Chapter provides an opportunity for focus. This also includes reconnecting the centre of Belfast and the surrounding communities, and the waterfront and TQ. ▪ Proposed launch of messaging at a BCCRIS summit event in city Hall in late November. 	<p>G On Track</p>

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	<p>Regeneration activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work collaboratively with colleagues in Planning and across Council to support regeneration plans and secure and deliver schemes aligned to Developer Contributions as appropriate. ▪ Delivery of the Vacant to Vibrant Pilot Capital Grant Scheme as a tool to address vacancy and dereliction while supporting SME's/ Independents to better utilise space aligned to council priorities. ▪ Engage with public and private sector in respect of major regeneration schemes including facilitating and leading project reference groups for specified major schemes, including Tribeca and Waterside (Sirocco). ▪ Lead the Joint Regeneration Group, Community Planning Partnership and City Development Boards with other partners to prioritise and drive key regeneration initiatives. ▪ Management of identified Regeneration Assets (including 2 Royal Avenue, Commission House, Site 10, Corporation Street) in line with the objectives of the City Centre Investment Fund and ongoing regeneration proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing developer contributions work includes placemaking scheme at Little York Street / Little Patrick Street, and working with DfC on 5Cs and Blackstaff Sq (surrounding environs). ▪ 26 Vacant to Vibrant applications approved as of 30 Sept. representing a capital grant investment of £ 461,136. This results in approximately 80 direct employment opportunities with approximately a further 26 indirect jobs across the supply chain, and an estimated Rates Value of £1,789,055 (subject to LPS assessment) over the course of the lease periods. This means that for every £1 invested in the grant, at least £3.88 will be returned in rates income over the term of the leases. The total output of businesses/organisations through the scheme (based on sales for Year1 and Year 2) is £12.4 million. External funding is also being sought to deliver a city wide Vacant to Vibrant scheme. ▪ Ongoing work and engagement across sectors in relation to major regeneration schemes, including the Joint Regeneration Group. ▪ Ongoing management of regeneration assets, noting additional asset acquired in Royal Avenue (acquisition completed August 24). 	G On Track
<p>Promote and Position the City for Inclusive Investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to support a joint public private approach, including via the Belfast Place Partnership, aimed at ensuring Belfast is positioned to continue to attract inclusive investment to underpin regeneration, development and infrastructure activities in the city required to deliver our inclusive growth ambitions. ▪ Facilitating investment and development related visits aimed at positioning the city to compete and promote inclusive growth and development for the city. ▪ Maintaining and developing the Invest in Belfast website and associated promotion platforms (investment guide etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval to support BCRPP through 2024/25 was provided by CG&R Committee in June 2024. BCRPP 24/25 launched mid-September at the Belfast Grand Central Station with a focus on placemaking and gamechangers shaping the city and wider city region. 	G On Track

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
Future City Centre Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversee the delivery of the Future City Centre (FCC) Programme five pillars, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regeneration and connectivity ○ Business and investment proposition ○ Animation and distinctive offering ○ Clean, Green, Inclusive & Safe Vulnerability ▪ Ongoing management and development of the Programme OBA performance measures (strategic and operational indicators) in the form of a FCC Performance Measures Dashboard. ▪ Partnership working and engagement with city stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing monitoring and reporting of City Centre strategic and operational indicators via the City Centre All Party Working Group, including detailed overview on Council led activity and comms digest. 	G On Track
Deliver year 3 of the Tourism Strategy 'Make Yourself at Home'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch and deliver the Neighbourhood Tourism Development Programme. ▪ Development of visitor experience of Council Assets (visitor attractions). ▪ Delivery of Accessible Tourism programme. ▪ Delivery of Food Tourism programme. ▪ Delivery of Business Tourism - Conference Subvention. ▪ Position Belfast in national and international markets through Visit Belfast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme launched and Expressions of interest returned by 4th Oct. ▪ A draft of the study has been received & actions are being considered. ▪ Accessible tourism programme is progressing in partnership with TNI. ▪ Food tourism work is continuing, and a facilitator has been appointed. ▪ The Conference subvention scheme was approved by CG&R in May within the Tourism Plan. It is administered by Visit Belfast and match funded by Tourism NI. ▪ Work is ongoing with Visit Belfast and a number of successful campaigns have been delivered as well as a new MOU with Tourism Ireland. 	G On Track
City Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver the annual programme of events including Christmas 2024, St Patrick's Day 2025, Maritime 2025, Made in Belfast and Lord Mayors Day. ▪ Development and delivery work towards the Fleadh ▪ Development and delivery work towards the Oireachtas 2025 ▪ Development and delivery work towards the Euros 2028, including establishing and servicing governance structures for both. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lord Mayor's Day was successfully delivered on 18th May 2024, attracting 12,000 attendees and integrated with Belfast 2024 programming. ▪ Christmas lights switch on is planned for 16th Nov. Planning for the Maritime Festival in 2025 is well under way. ▪ BID for Fleadh was submitted in August 2024 and is anticipated that announcement of successful host will be in March 2025. ▪ Euros work is currently under review with recent announcements to Casement Park. ▪ Development of plans is underway aligned to the Fleadh. 	G On Track

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Event Management Plans, including mobility plans (pedestrian/ traffic management) for larger events. ▪ Securing associated permissions and land rental. ▪ Continue working with partners to plan & develop future International Events bids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working closely with TNI and UK sport to align to future bidding cycles for major events. 	
Cultural Strategy	<p>'A City Imagining Plan'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing the cultural multi-annual funding programme (CMAG) and other grant streams. ▪ Deliver a programme of sectoral development and strategic partnerships. ▪ Implementation of heritage audit and roadmap for development. ▪ Progress cultural animations activities including Belfast Canvass, City as a Gallery. ▪ Design and deliver wraparound support programmes including leading sector forums for festivals, visual arts and sustainability. ▪ Deliver a range of capacity building initiatives for the sector including initiatives designed to increase accessibility and cultural participation. ▪ Complete the strategic review of artist studios and maker-spaces in Belfast and identify support to these organisations. ▪ Develop and Deliver report on the impact of culture and cultural participation. <p>Implementation of "Music Matters" Music Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver actions within the Music Strategy 4 strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theme 1: Place artists at the heart ○ Theme 2: Nurture the Sector ○ Theme 3: Ignite the IRL experience ○ Theme 4: Unlock the unifying power of UN ▪ Support 10 Artists through the creative bursary programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMAG is continuing to be delivered. ▪ Partnerships are established with arts and business and university of atypical. ▪ Heritage audit report is complete and actions and recommendations are under review. ▪ Belfast Canvass is currently underway following procurement and appointment of a contractor. 30 utility boxes selected with work to be completed by Nov 2024. ▪ Work is continuing including two visual forum events, 5 festival forums and 4 green arts forums. Work includes production of Belfast Art Map, support for four pilot sustainability projects and delivery of marketing support for 18 festivals and Late-Night Art. ▪ Delivery of year 3 of the Blueprint programme, supporting 17 organisations to enhance their financial sustainability. ▪ A partnership with Theatre and Dance NI, including funding for 7 recipients, across various disciplines of the theatre and dance sector, as part of the INVEST programme. ▪ Continuing with support to increase participation and representation at cultural events by disabled people through initiatives such as the Gig Buddies programme and a new partnership with the University of Atypical. ▪ Implementation of the Music Strategy continues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery of Artist Studio Support scheme with 12 artist studios receiving a combined £100k in support. ○ Strategic review completed, with findings forming the development of an action plan with key stakeholders over Q3 and Q4. ○ Report to be developed following evaluation of 2024 programme in Q4. 	G On Track

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery of £400k of targeted support within workplan presented to CG&R Committee in Aug 2024. ○ Support for 16 bursaries. Project finished in Nov 2024. 	
Belfast 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deliver Belfast 2024, the city’s biggest ever cultural and creative celebration, during the key visitor months of March to November. The celebration includes a combination of world-class activities and grassroots programmes, which will be shaped by community input. ● Deliver a vibrant and diverse arts calendar. The Belfast 2024 programme includes three strands of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 20+ unique commissions, including ‘come and see’ activities, world-class collaborations and partnerships and locally-led projects. ○ Creative Citizens programme, forging new links with all communities to encourage them to get involved and develop our programme further. ○ Participatory budgeting scheme where residents will be able to put forward ideas for local projects they want to see in their areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Belfast 2024 launched officially on 29th February 2024, and we’ve achieved significant successes across the programme, with very positive feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 99 % of attendees agreed they had a good time. ○ 97 % agreed the activity was absorbing and held their attention. ○ 98 % agreed they would come to something like this again. ■ We started with the weekend of events to welcome Little Amal to Belfast and our welcome performance, with over 200 community and professional performers. This was the biggest and most ambitious welcome Amal has seen across 160 cities she’s visited previously. Following this activity a number of Belfast artists have been invited to work with the Amal team on future projects. ■ Over event taking place through the summer and into September include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lyric’s Midsummer - sell out audiences in a new outdoor theatre space. ■ Waterworks – the culmination of more than 90 workshops held with residents, community groups, schools and residential homes since February during which participants created their own boats. ■ Drift – a floating river pavilion, opened at Stranmillis and was at full capacity for their special events. It moved to a second location at the ICC allowing for activity in the city centre. ■ Green House has continued to grow their offering with a series of skills workshops to challenge fast fashion. ■ Bank of Ideas – Participatory Budgeting as part of Belfast 2024 ‘Creative Me’ Programme. This scheme awarded £50,000, divided evenly between ideas for North, South, East, West, Belfast, and City Centre. ■ Safari in the City have completed their first mural at Cliftonville Football grounds – incorporating nest boxes for local wildlife which received extensive coverage from the BBC. ■ 9ft in Common have mapped over 202km of alleyways in our city and led a series of events, from foraging to music gigs and art workshops, across the city. 	G On Track

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nobodaddy - Michael Keegan Dolan’s world premiere opened in Belfast in September – a first for one of Ireland’s most prolific choreographers. ▪ Soundlinks – Townsend Street closed to traffic and welcomed 1,000s to their Block Party on International Peace Day, with food music and fun throughout the day for all ages and communities. ▪ BBC Concert – A Century of Stories took place in Waterfront Hall and will be aired on TV at the end of October. ▪ Eurocities Culture Conference - We hosted a 3- day Eurocities Culture Forum 25-27 Sept, with 136 participants from 64 cities & 23 countries. ▪ We were able to showcase 14 Belfast 2024 projects, 22 venues and spaces, and 33 local artists and culture sector representatives. ▪ An Irish Goodbye mural was launched on 30th Sept celebrating the success of this home-grown Oscar and Bafta winning film. ▪ Shadowdock brought to life the Thompson Dry dock where the Titanic was built. Despite cancellation of one show due to adverse weather – this was followed by a sellout run over the last weekend in September. 	G
Belfast Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appoint Interpretive Planner and Concept Design Team. ▪ Commence recruitment of Contract Manager. ▪ RIBA Stage 1 Report. ▪ RIBA Stage 2 draft designs – experience and buildings ▪ RIBA Stage 2 Report ▪ RIBA Stage 3 commence. ▪ Members Study Visit. ▪ Ongoing Stories Network and Panels. ▪ Public Consultation and report findings. ▪ Submit Outline Business Case to TNI and DfE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barker Langham and Ralph Applebaum appointed. ▪ Recruitment to commence October 24. ▪ RIBA Stage 1 report complete. ▪ RIBA Stage 2 underway – concept designs for experience and buildings. ▪ RIBA Stage 2 report is due end of March 25. ▪ RIBA Stage 3 is not yet due. ▪ Members Working Group study visit to Liverpool August 24. ▪ Network events held March and July 24. ▪ Consultation planning underway – to commence Q4. ▪ OBC development underway for submission Q1 25. 	G On Track
Commercial Assets	<p>Manage the delivery of Commercial Assets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Belfast Zoo; ▪ Malone House; ▪ Belfast Castle; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members of the City Growth and Regeneration committee receive regular quarterly updates on the Zoo with the most recent paper presented to November meeting. 	G On Track

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council owned Car Parks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contract management of enforcement contractor to recover the income from car parking in consideration with the emerging SSA work. ○ Continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure on taking forward the Belfast off-street Parking Order for the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An update was presented to CG&R Committee in September detailing subsequent work undertaken to improve Council off-street car parks in relation to a previous Notice of Motion. Members agreed to the remaining improvement work outlined in the report. 	<p>G On Track</p>

Our Planet

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2024-25 we will:)	Progress from 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024	Status
<p>Net Zero Neighbourhoods Framework: UP2030 Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress the UP2030 Net Zero Neighbourhoods Framework project, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stakeholder engagement and community involvement in shaping and delivery of Net Zero Neighbourhoods Framework. ○ Identification of phased Net Zero interventions in UP2030 areas for Framework. ○ Finalise the Net Zero Framework and opportunities to scale in other areas of Belfast. ▪ Capture learning and development to support integration of Net Zero considerations across key workstream to lead our transition to an inclusive low-carbon economy. ▪ Ensure alignment with and implement other department responsibilities within the council’s Climate Action Plan for 2024-25. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing work with partners in respect of the UP2030 New Zero pilot, including extensive engagement and workshops through existing forums. 	<p>G On Track</p>

Key Performance Indicators

As many of the indicators are new for this, many have no target for this year. Where there are targets in the Corporate Plan or other documents, these have been used below.

Our Economy	2024/25 Year End Target	KPI results from 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024	Status
Number of individuals accessing employment and upskilling academies.		(employment) 480 allocated for Sept start + (upskilling) 240 allocated (of which 193 already started)	On Track
% of those who move into a job/better job.	75%	Data not yet available – no academies have completed at the end of Q2 to be fully evaluated.	Data not yet available
Business start-up & growth – number of jobs promoted/business plans produced.	325	TBC	Data not yet available
Innovation Factory occupancy levels and jobs supported.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	83% 66 jobs supported	On Track
Number of social enterprises and co-operatives supported.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	25 through 'Go Social' programme	On Track
St George's Market Visitor Numbers.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	New footfall counters will be installed in Q3 – City Centre footfall monitoring reports that visits during the first six months ↑ 10.6% compared to the same period last year.	On Track
Number of organisations signed up to the Belfast Business Promise accreditation.	50	52	Complete

Our Place	2024/25 Year End Target	KPI results from 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024	Indicator Status
Number of Belfast Bikes journeys	No target set – seek to establish baseline	There were 73,608 journeys recorded during H1, ↑ 2% on the same period the previous year.	On Track
Total no. of previously vacant city centre properties that have been awarded the Vacant to Vibrant grant and will become occupied due to the intervention.	26	26	Complete
The total amount of funding (£) awarded to city centre traders to address vacancy.	£420,000	£461,136	Complete
The total number of people engaged (traders, developers, business owners, landlords etc) in assisting with the completion of applications to the Vacant 2 Vibrant intervention.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	37 applications received at the end of Q2	On Track
Attendance levels at City events.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	12,000 (Lord Mayors Day)	On Track
Total value (£) of cultural funding facilitated.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	£1.425m over the first six months	On Track
Number of events and activities delivered (as part of Belfast 2024).	No target set – seek to establish baseline	382	On Track
Participants (Belfast 2024).	No target set – seek to establish baseline	8,993	On Track
Audiences (Belfast 2024).	No target set – seek to establish baseline	55,338	On Track
Number of creative organisations engaged (as part of Belfast 2024).	No target set – seek to establish baseline	811 Artists 203 Programme Partners	On Track
Visitor Numbers to the Zoo.	No target set – seek to establish baseline	There were 89.2k visitors to the Zoo during H1, ↓ 4% compared with the five-year average of 92.8k visitors.	At risk / change required