

Transition Committee

Monday, 9th March, 2015

MEETING OF TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Jones (Chairman);
Councillors Austin, Carroll, Clarke,
Corr Johnston, Craig, Dudgeon,
Garrett, Graham, Groves, Heading,
Magennis, McDonough-Brown,
McKee, McNamee, O'Hara
and Sandford.

In attendance: Mr. C. McCarthy, Interim Strategic Director of
Health and Environmental Services;
Mr. J. McGrillen, Director of Development;
Mr. J. Walsh, Town Solicitor;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure;
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors R. Brown, Hanna and Hussey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Shadow Council at its meeting of 3rd March, subject to the omission of the item under the heading 'Service Convergence – Pricing for Outdoor Leisure', to the effect that the decision in respect of which had been 'called in' in accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Accordingly, the ad hoc Committee had met on 27th February to consider the call in request and had referred the matter back to the Transition Committee for further consideration.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Reconsidered Matter: Service Convergence - Pricing for Outdoor Leisure

In accordance with the decision of the ad hoc Committee of 27th February, the Committee considered further the following minute of the meeting of 10th February, together with an associated report, as set out also, which had been prepared by the Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure:

Service Convergence - Minute of Meeting of 10th February

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“(Mr. A. Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1 Background

1.1 *On 29 January 2015, a report had been submitted to the Transition Committee setting out proposals as to how the Council may wish to manage the converging of prices for comparable services currently provided by Lisburn City Council (LCC), Castlereagh Borough Council (CBC) and North Down (ND) in those areas transferring to Belfast.*

1.2 *To inform this report, a detailed analysis and comparison was undertaken of the scope of services, and associated scale of charges (prices) applied across the councils. The findings of this work indicated that the Belfast level of charge is generally lower than that of the other Councils.*

The analysis identified that for street trading licences the Belfast service charge is significantly higher than that applied by LCC/CBC in the transferring area. Significant had been defined as being a sudden and adverse increase in price for recurring services, as a direct result of the boundary extension, when converging the transferring area price to the Belfast price.

2 Key Issues

2.1 *Following discussion, the Transition Committee agreed:*

(i) a general principle that Belfast prices would be applied to services delivered in the transferring areas which will mean that in the majority of cases transferring users and residents will experience a reduction in service prices.

(ii) in relation to Street Trading Licenses, whereby a significant price difference would be experienced, that a phased approach (i.e. incremental levelling of prices over a 4 year period) would be applied.

(iii) further consideration be given to the differential in prices for outdoor leisure provision,

specifically 3G Pitch usage, in assets transferring from LCC and that a separate report be brought back to Committee for consideration.

- 2.2** *The purpose of this report is to outline the position in regards to any potential differential between the charges applied by BCC for outdoor leisure: 3G Synthetic Pitch provision as compared to LCC as well as some of the key considerations which Members may need to take into consideration.*

3G Synthetic Pitch

- 2.3** *Members will note that there is only 1 asset transferring from LCC which is affected (i.e. Brooke Activity Centre). The table below sets out the current differences in charges between BCC and LCC. The greater increase in prices relates to hiring pitch (both full and half pitch) at full cost. There is insignificant increase for concession usage; however, Lisburns peak/off-peak times differ from BCC's.*

Description	BCC	LCC
3 G Synthetic Pitch Peak, full pitch	£82.00	£60.00
3 G Synthetic Pitch Peak, full pitch - concession	£41.00	£40.00
3 G Synthetic Pitch Peak, half pitch	£41.00	£30.00
3 G Synthetic Pitch Peak, half pitch - concession	£20.50	£20.00

In liaison with colleagues from LCC, a summary of the usage of this facility is set out below:

- *Primarily School bookings during the day at the facility (concession rate)- usage of half pitch;*
- *There are 18 weekly bookings at other times (after 5 and at weekends) – all bookings are for half the pitch in a casual, cash basis; and*
- *10 local teams and 8 community groups book the facility*

If a decision is taken to retain the current LCC charging structure for any specified period post transfer of asset to BCC, it is estimated that there would be a potential loss in income of £4-5K (approx) per annum.

- 2.4** **Options for Consideration**

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1. Move to the BCC rate. BCC will work with the existing groups to consider block booking options, where not currently applied. A block booking by a recognised team or community group secures usage and is exempt from VAT, reducing the charge applied to:

- **£68.30 for full price full pitch**
- **£34.15 for concession price full pitch**
- **£34.15 for full price half pitch**
- **£17.10 for concession price half pitch**

2. Consider the proposed BCC charges for Brooke as 'significant' and phase in the increase in line with the agreed approach to other transferring council charges

3. Hold existing LCC charges for 12 months. This would not be in line with the agreed charges for other activities or services.

2.5 Regardless of which option is agreed, P&L, via the emerging pitches strategy, are considering options for community and discounted charges. Brooke 3g pitch will be included in this exercise.

2.6 Service Continuity & Bookings

Members should note that in the interest of ensuring business continuity, Belfast have agreed to honour any bookings taken by LCC/ CBC that transcend 01 April 2015 and that the price charged at point of booking (on basis of a payment or part payment being made) will be also honoured. This mainly relates to outdoor leisure arrangements.

3 Resource Implications

If a decision is taken to retain current LCC prices for a year period, there may be a potential loss of income of £4-5K annually.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

All recommendations outlined will be taken forward within the context of the Council's equality and good relations frameworks. Communications in relation to pricing will be as per all existing Council processes and channels (e.g. City Matters, website).

5 Recommendation

To agree the preferred option (as set out in section 2.4 above) to be applied for 3G Synthetic Pitch bookings linked to the asset transferring from LCC.”

The Director of Parks and Leisure outlined the principal aspects of the report and answered a range of Members’ questions in respect of the options which had been identified.

Proposal

Accordingly, it was

*Moved by Councillor Magennis,
Seconded by Councillor Clarke,*

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option 3, as set out within section 2.4 of the report, specifically to retain the Lisburn City Council rate for the hire of 3G pitches at the Brooke Activity Centre for a period of 12 months, that is, from 1st April, 2015 till 31st March, 2016.

Amendment

*Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor McKee,*

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option 1, as set out within section 2.4 of the report, specifically to apply the Belfast rate for the hire of 3G pitches at the Brooke Activity Centre from 1st April, 2015.

On a vote by show of hands, four Members voted for the amendment and eight against and it was declared lost.

The proposal standing in the name of Councillor Magennis and seconded by Councillor Clarke was thereupon put to the meeting when eight Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.”

**Service Convergence –
Report of Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Relevant background information

1.1 On 29 January 2015, a report was submitted to the Transition Committee setting out proposals as to how the Council may

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wish to manage the converging of prices for comparable services currently provided by Lisburn City Council (LCC), Castlereagh Borough Council (CBC) and North Down (ND) in those areas transferring to Belfast.

1.2 At that meeting, the Transition Committee agreed:

- (i) a general principle that Belfast prices would be applied to services delivered in the transferring areas which will mean that in the majority of cases transferring users and residents will experience a reduction in service prices.**
- (ii) in relation to Street Trading Licenses, whereby a significant price difference would be experienced, that a phased approach (i.e. incremental levelling of prices over a 4 year period) would be applied.**
- (iii) further consideration be given to the differential in prices for outdoor leisure provision, specifically 3G Pitch usage, in assets transferring from LCC and that a separate report be brought back to Committee for consideration.**

1.3 At its meeting on 10 February, the Transition Committee agreed to retain the Lisburn City Council rate for the hire of 3G pitches at the Brook Activity Centre for a period of 12 months, that is, from 1st April 2015 until 31st March 2016. This would not be in line with the agreed charges for other activities or services.

1.4 Under Section 41 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides that a Council's Standing Orders must make provision requiring reconsideration of a Committee decision (Call In). The Ad-Hoc Committee for Call-in met on 27 February to consider the challenge and recommended that the decision be referred back to the next meeting of the Transition Committee.

2.0 Key issues

The Call-In challenged the decision of the Transition Committee of Belfast District Council made on 10 February 2015 under the heading 'Service Convergence – Pricing for Outdoor Leisure'. This was on grounds that it is procedurally deficient due to it:

- i. Creating a separate charging structure for one facility when all other such facilities within the council**

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area operate under a single charging structure and doing so;

- (a) for no substantive reason, or**
- (b) on no reasonable grounds, or**
- (c) without due or adequate consideration, or**
- (d) without consideration of all relevant or material information or specifically without due consideration of the difference in charges between this centre and every other centre once VAT advantage is applied, or**
- (e) without a due or appropriate or adequate consideration of Equality issues, or**
- (f) without due or adequate consultation, or**
- (g) to the detriment of specific user groups of that centre without due or adequate consideration or due or adequate consultation.**

ii. Charging youth teams substantially more to use that facility at peak times than they are charged to use any similar facility within the council area at peak times;

- (a) for no substantive reason, or**
- (b) on no reasonable grounds, or**
- (c) without due or adequate consideration, or**
- (d) without due consideration of all relevant or material information or specifically without consideration of the level of or the impact on youth team use of the centre, or**
- (e) without a due or appropriate or adequate consideration of Equality issues, or**
- (f) without due or adequate consultation, or**
- (g) contrary to the council's stated policy of increasing youth participation in sport and acting contrary to this policy without due or adequate consideration or due or adequate consultation.**

Pricing Policy

Currently, charges for 3G pitches are set in accordance with the Parks and Leisure departmental pricing policy, which sets out a consistent charge for all 3G pitches across the city. A full equality impact assessment was carried out on this policy in 2002. It is the intention over the coming months to present a corporate pricing policy to Committee for its consideration. This will harmonise processes, prices and booking conditions across the new Council area, and will be subject to a full equality screening. At that point, any differential impacts will be identified and mitigating actions introduced.

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It is likely that this corporate policy, given its broad nature, will be screened in for a full equality impact assessment and require a 12 week consultation.

Previous Options for Consideration

In advance of this corporate pricing policy, the Committee considered the following 3 options at its meeting on 10 February for the only transferring 3G pitch, located at the Brook Activity Centre:

Option 1: Move to the Belfast City Council rate;

Option 2: Consider the proposed BCC charges for Brooke as 'significant' and phase in the increase in line with the agreed approach to other transferring council charges; or

Option 3: Hold existing Lisburn City Council charges for 12 months.

This was in line with the 3 options considered at the initial meeting on 29 January across all comparable services including Building Control and Community Services.

Equality implications

Further detail on the equality implications for each option is set out below for Members' consideration:

Option 1: Across the city, a consistent charge for all 3G pitches is based on the Council's annual scale of charges which derives from the departmental pricing policy. The policy was equality screened in 2002. The price differential between BCC and LCC is set out in the appendix.

There is an adverse price differential for those groups/clubs who pay full rate. There is a positive price differential across all concession groups.

A potential mitigating action is that officers will work with those groups/clubs who pay full rate, to ensure that they can avail of the best rate possible and reduce the adverse impact.

Option 2: In previous consideration, Transition Committee deemed the price differential as significant for street trading licences i.e. this was a sudden and adverse increase of approx £1,000 for a recurring service. As per the table in the appendix, there is no price differential of this scale.

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Option 3: This would not be in line with the agreed charges for other activities or services and would sit outside the Council's scale of charges derived from the current departmental pricing policy. It would have a positive price differential for those groups/clubs who pay full rate. It would have a negative impact across all concession groups, particularly in terms of age (i.e. schools and juvenile teams) as a Section 75 group. In a recent update report to Parks and Leisure Committee (24 February 15), it was noted that there is an under-supply of provision for youth teams in the city.

A potential mitigating action is that sports development officers could work with schools and juvenile teams to maintain participation levels. However, they would still be adversely impacted by this pricing policy.

Options 1 and 3 would be deemed to have minor impacts, as outlined above, as this would be a temporary arrangement until such times as the Council introduces a revised corporate pricing policy. The Council can introduce mitigating measures as outlined above.

3.0 Resource Implications

Financial: If a decision is taken to retain current LCC prices for 15/16, there may be a potential loss of income of £4-5k.

4.0 Equality Implications

As outlined above.

5.0 Committee decisions required

**Option 1: Move to Belfast City Council rates; or
Option 3: Hold existing Lisburn charges for 12 months"**

The Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure outlined the principal aspects of the report and answered a range of Members' questions. In response to a Member's question, she indicated that a cricket pitch, which was located at the Fullerton Park in Dunmurry, would require upgrading and, as such, it was not anticipated that the Belfast rate for the hire of that facility would be imposed until that work had been completed.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McNamee,
Seconded by Council Heading,

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That, as a transitional arrangement, the Committee agrees to rescind its decision of 10th February and agrees further to maintain the former Lisburn City Council charge for the use of the 3G pitch at the Brooke Activity Centre until such times as a Corporate Pricing Policy has been established, equality screened and adopted.

On a vote by show of hands, eleven Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was accordingly declared carried.

Service Convergence - Transfer of Assets/Liabilities

(Mrs. C. Reynolds, Estates Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1 Background

1.1 On 29 January 2015, the Committee received a detailed report outlining what practical arrangements are being put in place to ensure service continuity and investment in those areas transferring into the city from Lisburn, Castlereagh and North Down.

1.2 With only 23 days remaining until the 1 April, the level and pace of work underway across the organisation is gaining greater momentum. This report sets out a high-level overview of some of the preparations being undertaken by the core frontline services as well as some an update on the transfer of assets and liabilities from Lisburn, Castlereagh and North Down to Belfast.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Service Readiness Preparations

2.1.1 *Detailed service planning is ongoing across the organisation to ensure the effective day-1 delivery of core front-lines services to the additional 21,000 households, 53,000 citizens residing in approximately 690 new streets and the transfer of 800 businesses. In summary:*

- Operational delivery plans and resources in place to extend all core services (e.g. cleansing, refuse collection, recycling, building regulations and licensing, night-time noise, air quality, food safety, key programmes and outreach initiatives) into new transferring areas**
- Necessary fleet and operational equipment in place for Day-1**

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- **Training plans in place and being implemented for transferring staff**
- **Handover processes in place for transferring assets (e.g. key holders, access arrangements, security, systems connectivity)**
- **Service delivery geographies agreed (e.g. cleansing, refuse collection, outreach programmes) and staff resources allocated**
- **Signage – programme of replacement signage for transferring assets in place**
- **Capital Investment - £2m secured through SSP&R for investment in a number of capital projects in new areas transferring.**
- **Maintenance - £573K budget secured through SSP&R for necessary maintenance and upgrade works to transferring assets**
- **Grant provision - £429K secured through SSP&R to support the extension of the Council's grant aid programmes into those new areas transferring.**

2.2 Communications and Engagement

2.2.1 Over recent months and as we move closer to 1 April, the level of communications and engagement activity across the Council has intensified significantly. Some highlights include:

- **Customer Mapping - All services have a firm understanding of the customer profiles and needs linked to the areas transferring and this information has informed service and resource planning.**
- **Officers throughout the organisation are working closely with communities' and stakeholder groups across the city to raise awareness of the services and support provided by the Council**
- **Belfast 2015 and Business E-shot's being issued to transferring residents and businesses**

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- **Business Engagement Event held on 5th Feb to share information on rates revaluation and rates convergence scheme in early Feb**
- **An 'Introduction to Procurement with Belfast City Council' even for business scheduled for 12 March 2015**
- **City Matters issued to extended Belfast City Council – next addition 30 March 15**
- **Website/Social Media – ongoing release of information around LGR and what it will mean for residents**
- **Door Knocking – direct household contact to share information and inform transferring residents of plans around core front-line services e.g. recycling, refuse collection**
- **Stakeholder Engagement – cross-departmental group in place to oversee and coordinate engagement activities in those areas transferring and ensuring relevant and timely information relating to services is available to officers on the ground.**
- **Local Engagement Events – programme of local engagement events in transferring facilities (e.g. community centres) to provide information on council services to transferring residents and users groups**

3.0 Transfer of Assets and Liabilities

- 3.1 As a result of Local Government Reform (LGR), there are a number of land and property assets due to transfer to the Council on 1 April 2015. These include 55 assets due to transfer from Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough and North Down and 30 no of off street car parks due to transfer from DRD.**
- 3.2 A detailed due diligence exercise has been ongoing over recent months around the transferring assets. A detailed report had been submitted to the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources on 20 February with an update on the transfer of assets and liabilities from CBC/LCC to BCC. This paper set out the current position and highlighted the key outstanding matters including Transfer Schemes; resolution of identified title and lease issues and building compliance issues.**

- 3.3** There has been intensive engagement over recent weeks with LCC/CBC to resolve many of the outstanding matters. There is however a number of key issues which still require resolution. These include:

(i) Transfer Schemes:

The Local Government Act 2014 provides for the making of Transfer Schemes for the transfer of designated assets and liabilities of a local government body (or department) to a local government body. Transfer Schemes, scheduling the transferring assets and liabilities (inc loan liabilities and contracts) will be required between CBC, LCC, NDBC and BCC. It is the responsibility of the transferring council (i.e. LCC, CBC, ND) to prepare such schemes for those assets transferring to BCC. We are still awaiting this.

On 12 February the DOE issued the Assets & Liabilities Transfer Schemes for CBC/LCC/BCC, together with guidance in utilising the scheme. Draft versions of the Transfer Scheme had previously been provided by DOE in July 2014 but the Transfer Schemes recently received differ from the earlier version produced by DOE.

The key differences relate to:

- the adjudication role of DOE in the event of disputes between the parties was clearer in the earlier draft;
- in the previous draft version, there was specific provision that responsibility for public liability claims pre-dating 1.4.15 rested with the body with responsibility for the asset at that time. In the Transfer Scheme recently forwarded by DOE this provision has been excluded.
- no requirement in the current version for both the transferor and the transferee having to agree and sign the Scheme. In the current version, it is the responsibility of the transferring body (CBC/LCC) to complete and to be signed by DoE.

Whilst a proposed timeline had been previously agreed with CBC/LCC for submission of the Transfer Schemes to BCC, at the time of writing the report they have not yet been received. Officers have continually stressed the urgency of receiving these Schemes and it is understood that CBC/LCC intend to bring them to their Governance and Audit Committee on 10 March. It is a matter of significant concern

that CBC/LCC has still not forwarded these Transfer Schemes to BCC

(ii) Building Compliance

In broad terms, all transferring building assets have had condition surveys undertaken by BCC and a programme of both non-recurring and planned preventative maintenance activities has been developed accordingly.

However, in relation to statutory building compliance matters (such as asbestos, legionella) there were a number of outstanding reports and other building compliance data. These are required in order to accurately assess statutory compliance in respect of matters such as asbestos, legionella etc and BCC had previously requested (on several occasions) that all outstanding compliance information was urgently forwarded by CBC/LCC. In the absence of such information, BCC had sought the agreement of CBC/LCC to access the relevant properties to undertake their own compliance surveys and this exercise is currently underway.

As part of this BCC recently completed an asbestos survey of the Robinson Centre. The findings of this report confirmed the presence of asbestos in the building.

As a result, CBC made a decision on 13.2.15 to close the facility as a precautionary measure albeit a portion of the building (e.g. Gym area) has since been reopened by CBC. The Health & Safety Executive have been advised and they are working with CBC in this regard.

- 3.4 Detailed discussions have taken place between BCC and CBC over recent weeks regarding this matter. BCC has now identified the urgent need for a further, more detailed, invasive survey to be undertaken of the building to fully identify the scale of the issues and the potential works required. The Council has sought authority from CBC to undertake this survey.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Members should note that the Town Solicitor has sought Senior Counsel opinion on the DoE Transfer Scheme and the specific concerns relating to the Robinson Centre and associated liabilities arising as a result of the building condition and the presence of asbestos. As a result of this advice it is proposed that the Council will now write to the

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Department of the Environment. A fuller update will be submitted to SSP&R Committee on 20 March 2015.

4 Resource Implications

- 5.1 Resources have been agreed as part of the revenue estimates for 2015 /16.**

6 Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 6.1 None**

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report and that a more detailed report on the Transfer Scheme for Assets and Liabilities will be submitted to the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 20 March 2015."**

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Renewing the Routes Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The ongoing Renewing the Routes Programme has delivered local regeneration projects at targeted locations across the arterial routes of Belfast since 2004. The Programme has facilitated the investment of approximately £7,810,000 across these key routes and neighbourhoods with the completion of approximately 800 commercial units and 137 environmental improvement schemes.**
- 1.2 The Committee agreed a four year rolling programme for the continuation of local regeneration across the target areas of the city in February 2012.**
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide updates and seek approval for a number of proposals linked to the council and additional ongoing programmes. The updates are in respect of:**
- Progress of works under the current agreed programme on Oldpark Road and Stewartstown/Woodbourne Crescent**

- Progress of works under our current agreed programme in Castlereagh Road and Lisburn Road

1.4 Following on from the programme approved in February 2012, Committee support is sought in relation to the specific local regeneration action plans for York Road and Shankill Road areas which are summarised as a project table.

2 Key Issues

Oldpark Rd and Andersonstown Rd (Node 4: Stewartstown Rd) programme

2.1 In June 2013, Council approved the Local Regeneration Plans for Oldpark Road (Oldpark Avenue to Clifftondene Crescent) and Andersonstown Road (Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road).

2.2 The initial priority initiatives in the agreed Action Plans were achieved within the agreed allocations and under-spends have been identified on both Stewartstown Road (approx £29,000) and Oldpark Road (approx £24,000) allowing the consideration of additional projects. In September 2014 Council agreed to extend the nodes of both roads in order to exhaust the under-spend through new project opportunities being presented for Stewartstown Road and Oldpark Road including commercial and environmental improvements. Typical cosmetic works include the painting of frontages, strip lighting, new signage and tiling.

2.3 *Stewartstown Road*

In order to utilise the under-spend work commenced on the adjacent Woodbourne Crescent area as an extension of the 2013/14 commercial/environmental improvement scheme. Despite being well used, the commercial units at Woodbourne Crescent are in poor condition and the inclusion of these units at Woodbourne Crescent has resulted in a wider environmental impact in the locale. Construction work is nearing completion on six additional commercial units and an environmental improvement scheme on the six Woodbourne Cottages has been completed.

2.4 *Oldpark Road*

The under spend presented an opportunity to further maximise the overall environmental improvements in the vicinity and an additional 13 businesses will benefit from investment within the commercial node between Oldpark

Avenue and Rosapenna Street. Construction work is nearing completion on the units.

Update on Renewing the Routes 2014/2015 programme

- 2.5 In June 2014 the Development Committee approved the Local Regeneration Plans for Castlereagh Road (Beersbridge Road to Grand Parade/Ladas Drive) and Lisburn Road (Bradbury Place to Tates Avenue). Building work is nearing completion on both roads and is expected to conclude by the end of March 2015.**
- 2.6 On Castlereagh Road 35 commercial units are receiving shop front upgrades. Heritage improvement works to the boundary wall of the McQuiston Presbyterian Church are underway and low level landscaping is also proposed. Working with the East Belfast Historical Society the content for the interpretative tourism sign has been agreed and the sign is in manufacture and will be installed at the Beersbridge Road junction.**
- 2.7 Environmental improvements at the block of shops near the top of the node at 259-247 Castlereagh Road have been agreed and will consist of improving the footpath in front of all the shops by levelling the area, tarmacing the surface and removing concrete bollards and replacing five of these with steel finish.**
- 2.8 The programme is also on site on Lisburn Road (Bradbury Place to Tates Avenue) with 42 commercial units currently being targeted for improvement works as well as 11 environmental improvements and a heritage improvement scheme underway.**

Proposed Regeneration Action Plans for 2015/16 (Shankill Road/ York Road)

- 2.9 Since approval in February 2012, work has continued on the development of plans for the agreed target areas. The 2015/2016 programme is the final Renewing the Routes scheme that was agreed in the 2012 Investment Programme. Extensive scoping and engagement work with relevant statutory and community contacts, including elected representatives for the area was carried out as part of the plan development process. This activity has informed the development and prioritisation of the local regeneration work summarised in the regeneration action plans included with this report for endorsement by committee.**

The proposed plans for Shankill Road and York Road also identify a longer list of additional projects that could form the basis for further work should increased resources become available or modifications are required for existing plans.

2.10 The key common themes emerging from the scoping work with local Councillors and stakeholders were identified as:

2.11 - *Environmental improvements* - major issues facing the routes are dereliction or underutilised property and often poor general environments; requiring action to ensure improvements that can complement other developments;

- *Heritage* – the roads contain elements of historical or cultural significance that offer the opportunity to develop these local assets through architectural lighting, interpretive signage and heritage projects; and contribute to wider tourism initiatives

- *Commercial improvements* – focus areas have been identified along the routes; the areas are hubs of activity with local shops, services and facilities serving the community. The commercial improvements will focus on improving the environment for residents, businesses and visitors and promote local pride within these areas

- *Environmental management works* - Targeted and sustained clean-up and graffiti removal campaigns working with local groups;

- *Collaborative and partnership work* - essential in maximising finite budgets, particularly with a joined-up approach to external funding opportunities with statutory agencies. The underlying objective is to maximise the impact of the Council's own contribution through internal joint working and external partnership opportunities alongside community safety, parks and leisure, economic development, building control, tourism and the arts and cleansing services.

2.12 Members will note the relevant areas and Regeneration Action Plans for the Shankill Road and York Road are appended for consideration. The additional longer list of projects is also provided as a guide for further potential activity should additional resources become available.

3 Resource Implications

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3.1 There are no additional resource implications.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 There are no relevant equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Committee are requested to:

- **Note the progress of the additional projects at Stewartstown Road and Oldpark Road utilising projected under-spend from the current programme;**
- **Note the ongoing work in relation to the current programme on Castlereagh Road (Beersbridge Road to Grand Parade/Ladas Drive) and Lisburn Road (Bradbury Place to Tates Avenue);**
- **Endorse the proposed Renewing the Routes Regeneration Action Plans for the 2015/16 programme on Shankill Road (Peter's Hill to Agnes Street) and York Road (Fife Street to York Park) as summarised."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chair