



Subject:	Belfast Agenda – Draft Document and Consultation Arrangements
Date:	21st October, 2016
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Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report provides Members with an update on progress towards production of the Belfast Agenda (Belfast's Community Plan).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider the draft Belfast Agenda, with a view to the document being discussed further at the special SP&R meeting at 9.30am on 28th October 2016, to which all Members will be invited; and• agree the proposed consultation plan.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	As Members will be aware, the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, Part 10, placed a statutory duty on councils in relation to community planning. The legislation states that, as lead partner , the council (once consensus has been reached with community planning partners) must publish a community plan that sets out long term objectives for improving economic, social and environment wellbeing of its district, together with the actions and functions to be delivered to achieve these objectives.

3.2	<p>Members will be aware that, over the past 2 years, considerable engagement and work has been taking place with Members, partners, stakeholders and communities to build the 'Belfast Agenda', our first community plan.</p>
	<p>Draft Belfast Agenda</p>
3.3	<p>A draft Belfast Agenda document, which is the overarching community planning framework for the city, is being produced for agreement by Members and Community Planning Partners, so that it can be released for public consultation (the current draft of the document is attached at Appendix 1). The purpose of the consultation is to allow the public and other stakeholders to further improve and refine the framework in advance of its adoption and publication in Spring 2017. In addition, during the consultation period action plans will be further developed with partners using an outcomes based accountability approach.</p>
3.4	<p>Clearly, as the process moves forward, it will be necessary to consider the creation of more local and area-based plans within the context of the Belfast Agenda framework. It is proposed that council officers engage with Area Working Groups in order to consider how this part of the process should be taken forward.</p>
3.5	<p>It is proposed that at November's Committee meeting, Members will be asked to agree the version of the draft Belfast Agenda document which will be issued for consultation – the version that is attached to this report, therefore, is an early copy that has been shared with partners in order to move towards agreement of content for publication. There will be an opportunity for Members to discuss the document in detail at the Special SP&R Committee meeting at 9.30am on 28th October 2016, to which all Members are invited. Further work needs to be done to design the document and proof it for ease of understanding by a wide range of audiences.</p>
3.6	<p>At the meeting on 28th October 2016, Members will also be asked to provide direction on the way in which the Belfast Agenda framework should inform the council's new Corporate Plan. Members will recall that the Local Development Plan (LDP) is linked to the community plan in that it is intended that the LDP should be the spatial manifestation of the outcomes in the community plan. Therefore it is intended that Members will also receive an update on the LDP Preferred Options Paper and the timetable for consulting on the document. Council officers are working to ensure that the consultation processes for the Belfast Agenda Framework and the LDP are aligned and mutually reinforcing.</p>

3.7	<p>Members will be aware that City Strategies such as the Belfast Agenda have been important in driving forward regeneration and development within cities. Members have an important leadership role to play in ensuring that the Belfast Agenda drives inclusive growth for the city and its people. There, it proposed that officers will develop a programme to build the understanding of staff and Members about the most effective way to implement city strategy and ensure maximum benefit. A report will be brought back to the Committee in November outlining proposals.</p> <p>Consultation Plan</p>
3.8	<p>A 12 week public consultation on the Belfast Agenda to provide opportunity for stakeholders and communities to provide feedback is proposed. It is proposed that initial consultation/information events will commence before the end of November 2016, subject to agreement by Members. A summary of the key elements of the proposed consultation plan are included within Appendix 2.</p>
3.9	<p>Members are requested to agree this approach, and note that more detailed information including event dates and locations will be advised in due course once confirmed.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>This next programme phase of the Belfast Agenda is included within current Council resources. Given the significant workload associated with supporting delivery of the Belfast Agenda consideration is being given, as part of the ongoing organisational development programme to the necessary alignment and organisation of staff to ensure effective delivery.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.11	<p>Equality and good relations implications are being considered in liaison with the Equality and Diversity Officer and will be included in the update to Committee in November before the document is issued for consultation.</p>

4.0	Documents Attached
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Draft Belfast Agenda Document</p> <p>Appendix 2: Draft Consultation Plan</p>