



Subject:	Belfast Agenda – Statement of Progress
Date:	23rd August, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy & Partnership Manager Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report provides an update for Members on the publication of a Belfast Agenda Statement of Progress in November 2019, which is a legislative monitoring requirement for the Council and its community planning partners.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: a) note the statutory requirement for the Council and its community planning partners to publish a Statement of Progress in November 2019; b) note the proposed content of the statement of progress, which is in line with legislative guidance provided by DfC; and c) note the proposed timeline associated with the publication of the Statement of Progress.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 421 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 311 1469 544">3.1 The Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan, was published in November 2017 and was led by the Council, in partnership with its community planning partner organisations. It is a long term framework outlining how the Council and its community planning partners will work collaboratively to deliver an ambitious and inclusive vision that will create a better quality of life for all citizens in Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="165 600 1469 882">3.2 The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires the Council and its community planning partners to make arrangements to monitor progress against meeting the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and the effectiveness of the actions taken in aiming to achieve these objectives. The legislation also requires the Council to publish a statement of progress on progress towards the outcomes and actions taken every two years, with the first statement of progress due for publication in November 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="165 938 1469 1220">3.3 The statement of progress, therefore, provides an opportunity for the Council and its community planning partners to update the public on the actions that have been taken, or are ongoing, and to demonstrate the impact that these actions are having on the achievement of the outcomes outlined in the Belfast Agenda. It also provides an opportunity to take stock in terms of embedding the partnership and collaborative arrangements and our focus and approach going forward.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1276 1469 1458">3.4 The key elements of the statement of progress will include a restatement of the vision, a short narrative provided on what our long-term outcomes are trying to achieve and why they are important; recent available data for our population indicators; and an update on the collaborative actions being progressed among partners.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1514 1469 1648">3.5 The document will also highlight good news stories, noteworthy achievements and good practice, which have led to sustainable change and improvement, particularly where there has been collaboration, engagement and innovative working.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1715 711 1749">Reporting against Action Plans</p> <p data-bbox="165 1805 1469 1986">3.6 Detailed action plans have been developed in collaboration with city partners to deliver against the commitments outlined in the Belfast Agenda within the context of the 4 priority areas. A detailed update will be provided to Members in September, however, an outline of the main areas of activity underway across each area is summarised below:</p>

- **Living Here**

Key areas of collaborative activity underway include, for example, the development of an integrated approach to address health inequalities within the city with a specific focus on helping to alleviate the significant societal challenges linked to Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health - lead by the Public Health Agency and BHSC Trust; Development of an inter-agency and coordinated approach to reducing preventable deaths related to cold weather within the city – lead by the BHSC Board; Working with Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and city partners to deliver series of interventions and plan of activity to help support delivery of the housing and population growth ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda; Development of an inter-agency approach to early intervention and improving outcomes for children and young people – working closely with the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership and Belfast Area Outcomes Group; Development of an integrated approach to neighbourhood regeneration and area working alongside community planning partners and city stakeholders.

- **Working and Learning**

Key areas of collaborative activity underway include for example, the development of ‘Belfast Works’ Integrated Employability and Skills pathway, which better links residents to employment opportunities and supports individuals to enter, sustain and progress in employment -led by the Council with support from wider partners including Belfast Metropolitan College, Department for Communities, Department for the Economy, Invest NI, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, Belfast Health Trust, Urban Villages and business sector representatives; Development of an integrated approach to address educational inequalities/underachievement within the city with a focus on individual’s journey through nursery, primary, post primary and further and higher education - the Education Authority is leading on this work programme alongside the Department for Education, CVS organisations, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, St Mary’s University College, Stranmillis University College, Urban Villages and other CPP partners.

- **City Development**

Key areas of collaborative activity underway include, for example, developing, in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure and other key partners, a Belfast Infrastructure Study which will bring forward specific proposals for enhancing and future sustainability of the city’s urban infrastructure which is critical in unlocking and driving

future economic growth across the city; Continued work on the production of the Belfast City Local Development Plan 2035, which will set out a clear vision for how Belfast should look in the future; Continued focused on the delivery of the Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy and working with city partners to deliver transformational regeneration schemes including the City Centre Revitalisation Programme; Promoting and enhancing the city's competitiveness and attracting investment through specific targeted programmes including the delivery of a shared Belfast city promotional brand and participation in major events to showcase to an international audience the investment opportunities within the city and position Belfast as a key investment location.

- **Growing the Economy**

Key areas of collaborative activity underway include for example, the development of an enterprise framework which will inform a city-wide approach to addressing the key challenges associated with starting and growing a business in Belfast; Increasing the level of enterprise helps diversify the economy and provide improved routes to opportunity to those who are disadvantaged; Development of a Resilience Strategy; Developing the city's cultural and tourism infrastructure and offering and positioning the Belfast as a destination of choice; Development and implementation of an 'Inclusive Growth Strategy' and call to action for CPP partners to support the creation of an inclusive city.

3.7 Work is already underway in collaboration with action leads / key partners to measure progress on Belfast Agenda commitments through monitoring report cards. The statement of progress will provide an update, where possible, on each action that has been completed/commenced from the respective action plan. A more detailed update on activity, outlined in the Belfast Agenda, will be brought to September SP&R Committee.

3.8 Common across all council areas, community planning is at an early stage of development. A key focus up to now has been the formal establishment the Community Planning Partnerships and building relationships, working with partners to define the specific programmes of work, alongside putting in place the infrastructure and support required to enable collaborative action/delivery. Whilst the statement of progress will outline this journey, it will also set out the good progress has been made in many areas and evidence of success.

3.9	<p><u>Timeline for the publication of the Statement of Progress</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 293 1442 734"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="284 293 1099 331">Activity</th> <th data-bbox="1099 293 1442 331">Target Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 331 1099 412">Collation of all progress information from internal and external partners to be completed</td> <td data-bbox="1099 331 1442 412">Mid-August</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 412 1099 450">Produce a first draft to begin formal review process</td> <td data-bbox="1099 412 1442 450">Early September</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 450 1099 488">Commence review process (internal and external)</td> <td data-bbox="1099 450 1442 488">9th September</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 488 1099 526">CMT Review</td> <td data-bbox="1099 488 1442 526">24th September</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 526 1099 564">A draft report reviewed at Community Planning Partnership</td> <td data-bbox="1099 526 1442 564">30th September</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 564 1099 602">Carry out Party Group Briefings</td> <td data-bbox="1099 564 1442 602">October</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 602 1099 640">Finalised version and report submitted to SP&R for approval</td> <td data-bbox="1099 602 1442 640">22nd November</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 640 1099 678">Final version issued to Community Planning Partnership</td> <td data-bbox="1099 640 1442 678">25th November</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 678 1099 734">Final document submitted to full Council for ratification</td> <td data-bbox="1099 678 1442 734">1st December</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Target Date	Collation of all progress information from internal and external partners to be completed	Mid-August	Produce a first draft to begin formal review process	Early September	Commence review process (internal and external)	9 th September	CMT Review	24 th September	A draft report reviewed at Community Planning Partnership	30 th September	Carry out Party Group Briefings	October	Finalised version and report submitted to SP&R for approval	22 nd November	Final version issued to Community Planning Partnership	25 th November	Final document submitted to full Council for ratification	1 st December
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3.10	<p>Effective communication activity will be central to maximising awareness of the statement of progress and officers are working with corporate communications both in relation to the design, development, publication and circulation of the document e.g. press release, social media activity, website etc. It is envisaged that the publication of the statement of progress and associated publicity will also provide a platform for re-engaging with citizens and stakeholders during 2020 as the Community Planning Partnership prepares for the 1st 4-year review of the Belfast Agenda (due by November 2021).</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>																				
3.11	<p>There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. Alignment of resources to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda is part of the ongoing organisational and financial planning processes.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>																				
3.12	<p>The Belfast Agenda has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment at a strategic level and a Rural Needs impact statement at the time of its publication.</p>																				
4.0	Documents Attached																				
	None																				