



Subject:	City Growth and Regeneration Committee Workshop Update
Date:	9 th October 2019
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
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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"/>
Some time 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	In June 2019, the Committee agreed the headline priorities for the 2019/20 programme of work to enable officers to continue to deliver on agreed programmes and projects. The Committee also agreed to hold a workshop to allow more detailed discussion on the priorities. This report provides an overview of the workshop held on 25th September 2019.

1.2	<p>The Committee's priorities will help to deliver the Belfast Agenda, and key corporate priorities including the Belfast City Centre and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), Belfast Region City Deal, the investment in digital connectivity, infrastructure and innovation; and the Inclusive Growth Framework. The Agenda includes four headline goals to focus on the sustainable, economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our economy supports 46,000 additional jobs. - Our city is home to 339,579 people. - There will be 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods. - Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.
1.3	<p>The Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) was produced and adopted by the Council in 2015 and subsequently adopted as policy by the Department for Communities (DfC). The Strategy provides the framework for change to drive the growth and regeneration of the city core and its surrounding areas. It is a key mechanism to deliver the shared city ambitions of the Belfast Agenda. It sets out eight policy areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the residential population; - Increase the employment population - Manage the retail offer - Maximise the tourism opportunity - Creation of regional learning and innovation centres - Create a green walkable, cyclable centre - Connect to the city around - Shared space and social impact <p>It also highlights a number of key projects and special action areas.</p>
1.4	<p>In line with the Belfast Agenda stretch goals for 2021 a stock take of development across the City Centre as set out in BCCRIS has been undertaken. The stock take is presented in the form of an animated fly through covering the 8 policy areas, projects and places and special action areas. The fly through highlights key achievements in terms what has come forward and highlights gaps, which will help identify opportunities for growth and development support.</p>
1.5	<p>The Economic Development and Employability elements of the Council's work have been set out across a series of frameworks and strategies. These include the new Cultural Strategy, the enterprise framework and the employability framework. The key focus of this</p>

	<p>work is on creating more new businesses, making existing businesses more productive and competitive, helping people into employment – particularly those who are economically inactive, increasing the skills of the resident population and increasing the value of tourism in Belfast. A workshop focusing on the economic development and employability and skills issues has been scheduled for 10 October at 5.15pm.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the key issues and messages from the strategic workshop held on 25th September 2019 and the planned employability and skills workshop on 10th October 2019. - Note the brief presentation on BCCRIS including the fly through animation, development snap shot and key challenges.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed towards regeneration and growth of the city in the context of outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy decisions. - Oversight of the exercise of Council functions in relation to economic development, city centre development, tourism, culture & arts, European and international relations, car parks, city markets, city events, Belfast Castle, Malone House and Belfast Zoo.
3.2	<p>The Committee workshop on 25th September 2019 was introduced by the Deputy Chair, Cllr Carole Howard and took the following format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An introduction and overview of the committee’s areas of responsibility - An overview of the priorities in the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan where this Committee has the primary lead role - The priorities and proposed approach to addressing the city’s challenges and building on its strengths, in terms of the broad areas of economic development and city regeneration and development - Challenges identified across economic development and city regeneration and development - Discussion on how officers can better support the work of the Committee.

3.3

The main discussion points from the workshop included:

- Maximise the Council's role as convenor and influence strategic city issues and investments such as housing, transport, regeneration, connectivity, and open and green shared spaces to encourage the establish of sustainable city centre living
- Continue to lobby for the transfer regeneration powers to local councils
- Build on our strategic partnership working to promote the city's assets and to realise the opportunities presented by the Belfast Region City Deal
- The Council's role as a responsible employer and leading by example
- Delivering a twin track approach to support people into employment and engage with employers to support upskilling and progression opportunities
- The need to build strategic relationships with key employers in order to understand how we can help them and they can help us address some of the key city challenges
- Provide tailored and targeted support to enable those who face multiple barriers to employment to benefit from a range of employability and skills support
- The need to be ambitious in encouraging new businesses to start up and grow in Belfast and to think more radically about the types of support that might help them
- The increasing importance of tourism to the city's development and the need to continue to invest, in order to ensure that the city feels the benefit of the tourism growth
- The need for meaningful and ongoing community engagement for city developments and infrastructure; particularly in terms of established communities and neighbourhoods
- The benefit of masterplanning to bring forward coherent urban design
- The benefit of working with public and private sector partners to provide critical mass in terms of attracting and bringing forward development opportunities that can deliver mixed tenure residential, along with a viable mix of commercial, social enterprise and cultural opportunities
- Explore the feasibility of alternative options to help address key issues, for example, co-development of housing, a business start-up offer for the Belfast economy, increasing vitality in the city centre and the future role of retail; generating a city centre environment to build communities and that people choose to live in
- Learning from the experience of the Bank Buildings Primark response to inform and manage our approach to intervene and support residents and businesses, for example in the event of recent redundancies.

3.4	A number of issues were raised in the course of the conversation and these will be followed up by officers. This may include bringing future reports back to the Committee on some of the key issues.
3.5	The workshop reinforced the value and format of these sessions, enabling Members to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges across the city. It also allowed more focused engagement and consideration to be given to the proposed approaches to progress programmes of work. Members suggested that particular consideration should be given to improve the working between the Planning and the City Growth & Regeneration Committees to support the shared understanding of the city's ambitions and enhance decision-making. Further consideration will be given to this in order to identify appropriate mechanisms that will ensure full compliance with statutory responsibilities.
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Committee Plan and annual programme of work will be in line with the budget of £17,118,371, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in January 2019.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Programmes and activities contained within the Committee Plan will be subject to appropriate equality, rural needs and good relations considerations.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None