

## APPENDIX 2 – BOSS SP HEADLINE ACTIONS

### SP1: Provide welcoming shared spaces

#### Headline actions

- Develop planning policy to protect existing open spaces.
- Identify specific opportunities within neighbourhoods to enhance and improve access to existing open spaces.
- Identify open space creation, enhancement and access improvements to inform Section 76 developer contribution policies and agreements.
- Use the planning process to ensure open spaces are well-designed, incorporate principles of 'Secured by Design' principles and have a long-term management arrangement secured.
- Ensure that new development proposals and regeneration plans contribute to improving our open spaces network (for example North Foreshore, Sirocco Quays).
- Continue to invest in new open space provision where possible across the city to meet growing demands and local needs.
- Work in partnership to encourage the creation of temporary or meanwhile uses of open space across the city.
- Actively support the development of a sustainable approach to the management and promotion of shared spaces.
- Update our bye-laws and improve enforcement within our parks and open spaces.
- Continue to work with the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership and other stakeholders to improve safety in our open spaces.
- Facilitate stronger community involvement in the management and enhancement of open spaces; for example by working in partnership with Friends' groups, volunteers, community groups and user groups.

### SP2: Improve connectivity

#### Headline actions

- Work to improve access and connections to our existing open space network for example the creation of a pedestrian-cycle bridge at the Lagan Gateway and Ormeau Park.
- Work in partnership to help remove or improve access through peace lines (for example Navarra Place).
- Continue to work with partners to support the creation of greenways across the open space network, such as the 'PEACE IV Shared Spaces, Connecting Open Spaces project'
- Work with partners, where appropriate, to develop under-utilised spaces across the city.
- Deliver planned physical, environmental and ecological improvements to the existing greenways network for example Holywood Arches Greenway's project.
- Develop a strategy to improve legibility of our greenways and community paths across the city, using methods such as consistent design and good signage.
- Improve linkages to the countryside from our open space network and support the creation of better pedestrian-cycle facilities within the countryside around Belfast (for example better public access to the Belfast Hills).
- Promote unique landscapes as destination open spaces for example Belfast Lough, Lagan Valley Regional Park, Belfast and Castlereagh Hills.
- Work with partners to improve public access to restricted open spaces (dual usage of playing fields).
- Identify opportunities to work with partners to improve the functionality of amenity open space.

### SP3: Improve health and wellbeing

#### Headline actions

- Develop an ongoing programme of activity focused on using open spaces to improve health and wellbeing, prioritising efforts in areas of health deprivation with the lowest open space accessibility.
- Identify and create opportunities for natural and informal play.
- Continue to encourage passive recreation by providing appropriate facilities (such as seating areas and shelters) across the open spaces network.
- Continue to maintain, invest and source funding to keep our sports facilities well maintained and affordable, for example physical investment in 3G pitches.
- Continue to encourage active recreation in our open spaces; for example walking, running, cycling, outdoor gyms, growing food and outdoor play.
- Encourage schools to use parks for active recreation and provide greater access to their sports facilities by local communities.
- Continue to work with the health and activity sector to develop programmes in our open spaces for at-risk groups.
- Target urban greening to help improve air quality in the city.

## SP4: Support place-making and enhance the built environment

### Headline actions

- Work with partners to create more green open space in the city centre, for example pocket parks.
- Encourage developers and partners to create meanwhile open space for sites awaiting redevelopment.
- Work with partners to green derelict land across the city.
- Work with partners to animate our public spaces across the city.
- In partnership continue to plan and fund the restoration of heritage assets in open spaces, for example the City Cemetery.

## SP5: Increase resilience to climate change

### Headline actions

- Work with Northern Ireland Water's 'Living with Water Programme' (LwWP) to identify open spaces that will help manage drainage and reduce flood risk.
- Identify ways to store rainwater for reuse in the management of our open spaces.
- Develop sustainable management practices in our open spaces for example increase wild flower planting and composting and reduce the use of fertilisers and chemicals.
- Increase tree and shrub planting where appropriate to provide shelter from extreme weather.
- Incorporate an appreciation of climate change risks and opportunities within open space management planning.

## SP6: Protect and enhance the natural environment

### Headline actions

- Develop planning policies and management practices that protect existing and work to enhance areas of ecological importance, including priority habitats.
- In partnership, support research that prioritises ecological improvements.
- Improve and create new habitats and natural features that enhances native biodiversity, help enable species movement and meet the objectives of the LBAP.
- Identify opportunities to adopt more sustainable land management practices such as planting species rich meadow to reduce mowing or creating woodland coppice.
- Train and upskill staff on habitat management and maintenance regimes.
- Continue to work with our partners to extend and enhance vegetation along the greenway network.
- Manage and control factors affecting habitat management regimes for example invasive alien species, habitat fragmentation, lighting and disturbance.
- Educate users about habitats and species that thrive in our open spaces, for example by developing and promoting eco-trails.

## SP7: Be celebrated and support learning

### Headline actions

- Work with universities and SMEs to develop solutions to explore innovative ways to understand usage and the needs of local people.
- Continue to provide and fund a range of community events and programmes within our open spaces.
- Continue to work with our partners and the education sector to encourage more outdoor learning.
- Actively promote the range of activities, festivals and events taking place in our open spaces.
- Identify opportunities to increase income generation activities and funding that will help sustain our open spaces network.
- Celebrate the heritage value and culture of our open spaces through the delivery of community events, guided heritage walks and talks and civic celebrations.
- Continue to work with partners to develop volunteering and training programmes that promote lifelong learning.
- Improve engagement and communications with our open space users and non-users.