



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Belfast Agenda – Continuing the Conversation Engagement</b>
<b>Date:</b>	18th June, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Robinson, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Jamie Uprichard, Community Planning Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the engagement programme planned to review the Belfast Agenda and highlight the first opportunity for Members to shape the refreshed community plan.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• note the plans for the initial phase of the Belfast Agenda – Continuing the Conversation engagement programme;</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the draft Terms of Reference to formalise the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning; and</li> <li>• note the date and time for the forthcoming all-member workshop scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, as detailed in section 3.7.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Belfast Agenda – Continuing the Conversation engagement programme was launched on 9th June, 2021 to formally commence the review of the Belfast Agenda. The proposed engagement plan for the initial phase has been shaped by the subgroup of the Community Planning Partnership which members were informed last month were co-designing plans to review the Belfast Agenda.
3.2	The All-Party Working Group on Community Planning (which includes a representative from each Political Party) met on 20th May. Members received an update on the reconfiguration of the Delivery Boards, in addition to a progress update on the areas they were current focussed on. Members highlighted the fact that they would welcome greater participation in the community planning and further fed back that they wished to formalise the working group. To that end, draft Terms of Reference (ToR) are attached at Appendix 1.
3.3	The draft ToR recommend that the purpose of the group will be to support, influence, monitor and challenge the development of community planning in Belfast and related programmes and projects. Members were clear that all significant decisions affecting the future direction of Community Planning in Belfast would be taken by the SP and R Committee.
3.4	The initial phase of engagement seeks to agree the short-term priorities, which will form the focus of community planning activity over the 4-year period 2022-2026. The engagement plan (attached at Appendix 2) highlights four flagship area-based, online workshops and a further event which seeks to engage ‘seldom heard’ groups and communities of interest. While planning for these events is ongoing with local partners, it is expected that they will be delivered in weeks commencing 26th July and 2nd August.
3.5	In the run up to these events, officers from the Strategic Hub will also be delivering (online) drop-in information briefings outlining the background to the review and highlighting different ways for the public to get involved and have their say. Subject to resources and availability, officers will also be available to provide outreach support targets specific communities.

3.6	<p>While public health regulations currently exclude indoor gatherings of large groups, most engagement activities will take place online. We will continue to monitor this situation, enabling face to face engagement if the regulations allow. Libraries NI have however agreed to disseminate and encourage their users to complete short postcard surveys and we hope to utilise council assets to provide an additional channel to engage the public. We have adopted a dynamic approach and are continuing to explore options to target child and young people through the planned DE funded summer school schemes and a forthcoming regional event with Common Purpose.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Political Engagement with Elected Members</u></b></p> <p>While Members will continue to be engaged at each stage throughout the engagement programme through the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning, an all member workshop was requested to enable all councillors from all parties reflect the views of their constituents from different areas of the city. A MS Teams workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August between 2pm and 4 pm.</p>
3.8	<p>Members will have also recently received a communications toolkit containing resources and links to promote and raise awareness of the review of the Belfast Agenda and further engage their constituents to make their voices heard. We would encourage Members to use their social media profiles (using the hashtag #BelfastConversation) to signpost people to the featured engagement on <a href="#">Your Say Belfast</a>.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Any financial implications arising from this report will be covered from existing budgets. The review process will involve the participation of all community planning partners, who will need to commit their resources to the review process and the agreed action plans.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>It is recommended that the consultation and engagement activities to review the Belfast Agenda will take account of the draft Audit of Inequalities and include specific sessions with targeted harder to reach groups to ensure that equality implications are considered as part of the review process.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Working Group on Community Planning Draft Terms of Reference Appendix 2 – Belfast Agenda – Continuing the Conversation Engagement Plan</p>