

# People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 7th September, 2021

## MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Cobain (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Copeland and McCoubrey; and  
Councillors Baker, Black, Bunting, Corr,  
de Faoite, Flynn, Garrett, M. Kelly, Magee, McAteer,  
McCusker, McReynolds, Mulholland, Newton, Smyth and  
Verner.

In attendance: Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services;  
Mrs. C. Mathews, Director of Resources and Fleet;  
Mrs. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 3rd and 10th August were taken as read and signed as correct.

It was reported that the minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor Smyth declared an interest in item 4 (a) Partner Agreements Update, in that he was a Member of Rosario's Youth Club funding steering group and he left the meeting whilst the matter was under consideration.

The following Members declared an interest in item 5 (a) in relation to the Community Provision Grant Funding Update. All Members left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

- Councillor Black, on the basis that she managed the Grosvenor Community Centre;
- Councillor Verner, in that she was an employee of the Greater Shankill Partnership (Spectrum Centre); and
- Councillor Corr, in that he was an employee of Falls Community Council.

**Restricted**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following 4 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the Members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion on the following 4 items as, due to their nature, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Financial Reporting - Quarter 1 2021/22**

(Ms. J. Wilson, Business Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Business Manager summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 1 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. She explained that the Quarter 1 position for the Committee showed an underspend of £1.428m (6.9%), with the forecast year-end position being an underspend of £18k (0%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee was advised that the reasons for the Quarter 1 underspend were due to vacant posts across a number of services, the receipt of additional income and the timing of grants and programmes.

The Committee:

- noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack; and
- requested that a report detailing the number of vacant posts within City and Neighbourhood Services, along with a proposed timeline for the recruitment of these positions be submitted to a future meeting.

**City Centre Street Resourcing - Open Spaces and Streetscene**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided the Members with a comprehensive update regarding the following matters, which included specific detail in relation to future resourcing of the functions:

- the approach to city centre cleanliness and the associated resourcing;
- the proposed realignment of resources into the Open Space and Street Scene (OSS) central team;
- an update in respect of the plans to commission a study to review the provision of street litter bins, floral displays in the city centre, along with the recommended improvements; and
- an update on the Clean, Green, Safe and Inclusive City Centre Study.

Several of the Members noted the update in regard to city centre cleanliness and the plans to commission a study to review the provision of street litter bins and floral displays in

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the city centre. Whilst broadly speaking the Members welcomed the review, several Members stated that its remit needed to be extended to cover the whole of the city and not just be city centre specific.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services suggested that Neighbourhood Cleansing Services and the overall proposed approach be further considered at a local level through the four Area Working Groups, with a citywide update report submitted to Committee in due course.

The Committee noted:

- the ongoing challenges around meeting customer expectation in relation street cleanliness within the city centre;
- the proposed approach to realigning and bolstering Council resources, subject to finance and Trade Union consultation;
- the plans to engage a consultant to review the provision of street litter bins, floral displays, and other street furniture across the city; and
- the update in respect of the Clean, Green, Safe and Inclusive City Centre study.

It was also agreed that, further consideration of Neighbourhood Cleansing Services would initially be presented through the Area Working Group, with a citywide update report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Update regarding legal proceedings concerning Mullaghglass Landfill Site, Lisburn**

The Committee noted a report which provided an update regarding the legal proceedings that had been issued against the Council in respect of the ongoing odour nuisance associated with the Mullaghglass Landfill Site, Lisburn.

The Director of City Services undertook to keep the Committee updated as more information became available.

Noted.

**Lagan Gateway Project - Bridge Naming**

The Committee considered a report which considered the next steps regarding the naming process of the Lagan Gateway project.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to defer the report for consideration by the Party Group Leaders.

**Committee/Strategic Issues**

**Notices of Motion Quarterly update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To provide the quarterly update to People and Communities Committee on Notices of Motion.**

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**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that P&C Committee is responsible for as referenced; and
- Agree to the closure of 5 Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance, as noted in paragraph 3.5 below.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 Members will recall that the first quarterly Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in April 2021.**

**3.2 This report provides an overview of the progress on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the April 2021 update, and on one new Motion which has since been added following agreement at the May 2021 Committee.**

**3.3 Notice of Motion Updates**

There are currently 23 active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which the People and Communities Committee is responsible for. An update on those Notices of Motion which remain active on the live database.

**3.4 Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance**

At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:

- **Category 1 - Notices of Motion which contained an action that has been completed.** All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Notice of Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report, but will be noted in the live database moving forward.

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- **Category 2 - Notices of Motion have become Council policy or absorbed into a strategic programme of work.** These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process.

**3.5** Following an update of those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.

**Category 1 Recommended Closures:**

- **Desecration of Graves within Belfast City Cemetery** – A report was presented to May 21 P&C Committee outlining the actions to reduce vandalism and ASB in the City Cemetery. Members noted the actions in the report. This NOM can be closed as the specific tasks have been completed.
- **Community Impact of Needle Finds** - This issue was addressed in a presentation delivered by the PHA to June 21 P&C Committee, and will now be picked up in routine briefings on public health issues to Committee on a six monthly basis. It is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
- **Youth Service – Invitation to address Committee** – Department of Education, Youth Service and PHA reps attended joint P&C / BYF meeting in Jan 2021. This motion can now be closed.
- **Mapping exercise of 3G and 4G Pitches** - This request has been addressed with Member who raised the issue and is recommended for closure.
- **Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012** - Officers have updated Cllr Heading, on the current position regarding the DoF 5 phase plan to uplift the Conservation of Fuel and Power section of the Building Regulations. This plan is outlined in the consultation on the new draft Energy Strategy, to which Building Control have provided a response. The plan outlines further consultation work to be carried out by the DoF regarding these changes to the Building Regulations and the Service will feed into a response. Building Control will monitor the progress on the

uplift of the Building Regulations and provide a response to the consultation when released. It is recommended that this motion is now closed.

**3.6 Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.

**3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.”

Following a query in regard to closing off, under category one, the mapping of 3g and 4g pitches, the Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that this issue would be further considered within the context of the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy and therefore suggested that it instead be closed off on the live database under category 2 (Category 2 - Notice of Motion which has become Council policy or been absorbed into a strategic programme of work).

The Committee:

- noted the report and agreed to the closure of 5 Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance, as referenced in in paragraph 3.5 of the report; and
- agreed that the mapping of 3g and 4g pitches be closed off on the live database under category 2.

**Department of Health - Integrated Care System (ICS)**  
**NI Draft Framework - Draft Belfast City Council**  
**Consultation Response**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 The Department of Health (DoH) has recently published for consultation, proposals for the development of a Future Planning Model, which will replace existing commissioning arrangements and processes in place within Northern Ireland (NI).
- 1.2 This work will see the development of a new Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI, whereby local providers and communities would be empowered to come together to plan, manage and deliver care for their local population based on a population health approach, with regional and specialised services planned, managed and delivered at a regional level. The deadline for the submission of consultation responses is Friday 17 September 2021.

1.2 This report and appendices available of mod.gov set out the draft Council response for Members' consideration and approval.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note that health colleagues are attending the August/ early September cycle of Members' Area Working Groups to provide an overview and discuss the emerging proposals.
- (ii) Consider and approve the draft consultation response, subject to any additional feedback from the Members' Area Working Groups captured and raised verbally at the Committee meeting.
- (iii) Agree that the response is submitted by 17 September 2021, highlighting that this remains subject to full Council approval in early October with any amendments being submitted at that stage.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues & Current Position

3.1 In 2005, A review of commissioning health services within NI found that the system was overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, detailing the need for changes in the way we plan, manage and deliver health services. The need for reform was subsequently reinforced by the Bengoa Report 'Systems not Structures'.

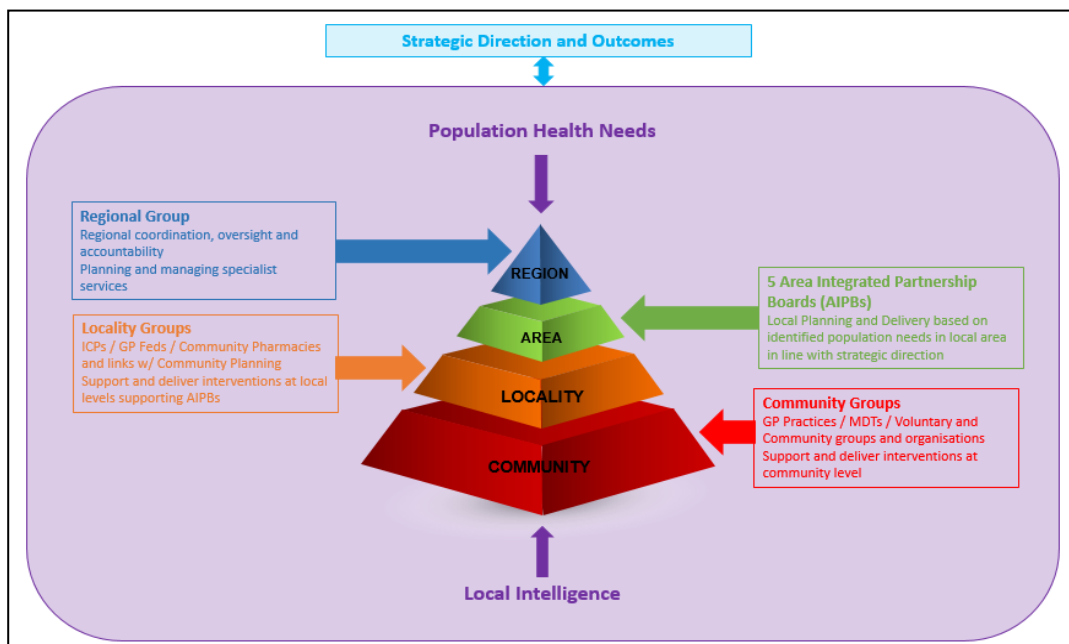
3.2 Following the commitments set out in the Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together plan to transform the health and social care system, the DoH has brought forward proposals for a new blueprint for the future of planning and managing health and social care services in NI.

3.3 The emerging proposals are based on an ICS approach which seeks to bring together partners within health and social care alongside other sectors including voluntary and community sector and local government, to plan, manage and deliver services based on the needs of the local population. A number of core principles underpin the ICS approach being proposed, including:

- Seek to increase autonomy and accountability at local decision making levels;
- See the delegation of decision-making and funding to local levels, except for regional and specialised services;
- Allow for planning, management and delivery of specialised services at a regional level; and
- Adopts an outcome-based approach.

- 3.4 The new model will ultimately enable local groups to take more control over planning and funding for services delivered within their areas to meet local needs. It will recognise the wider determinants impacting health and wellbeing and adopt a whole-system and integrated approach to planning and addressing these. The consultation document highlights the experience and evidence captured in responding to Covid-19 pandemic and what can be achieved if we come together to work as 'one-system'. Setting aside bureaucratic processes and breaking down barriers between sectors and organisations has allowed services to be delivered in a responsive and agile way to meet local need.
- 3.5 The consultation outlines the proposed vision, objectives values and principles which underpin the new ICS approach. Whilst further developmental work and detailed planning is required, the proposed ICS model will adopt a tiered approach as set out below.

Figure 1: ICS tiered approach.



### Draft BCC Consultation Response

- 3.6 A detailed draft BCC response has been compiled for Members consideration. Feedback is provided on the specific questions set on different aspects of the proposed framework. In summary, the response supports the development and introduction of an Integrated Care System (ICS) model and focus on adopting an agile, whole-system and outcomes-based approach to the design,



delivery and management of health, social and community services.

**3.7 Addressing health inequalities and improving health and well-being outcomes within Belfast are key priorities for the Belfast Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and Council. The commitment to an outcomes-based approach is at the heart of the Belfast Agenda, the community plan for Belfast, as well as the provision of direct Council services and support to citizens and communities. The Council works collaboratively with multi-agency partners to alleviate many of the health inequality challenges that exist within Belfast and we welcome and support the commitment to continue to plan and manage services informed by local input and intelligence, which underpins the proposed ICS model.**

**3.8 A summary of Council's main comments is outlined below:**

- Strongly recommend that in designing the new ICS model and supporting tiered structures, due consideration is given to how this can take account and build upon existing Community Planning and local structures. This would avoid potential duplication, maximise the contribution and commitment of cross-sectoral/ inter-agency partners and address the wider determinants of health. It is important to note that there has ongoing engagement between Council officers and health colleagues to support the alignment of planning processes and structures within the city.**
- Seek further engagement and input into designing how the ICS model will operate at multiple levels, strategically and operationally, and how service users, local communities and local intelligence on health pressures (e.g. mental health and emotional well-being, substance misuse) help shape the overall strategic approach. It is important that regional measurements align with and are informed by local and community impact measures and 'bottom up' checks and balances are built into area level decision making.**
- Whilst recognising the need to introduce a regional body to provide coordination, consistency, oversight and accountability as well as planning and managing specialist services, it is important that consideration is given to its relationship with local structures and addressing common localised health challenges, with appropriate flexibility built into any resourcing / funding model brought forward.**
- In designing the proposed regional group, consideration must be given to its relationship with local structures and how the plans and performance framework links with local level planning. It is also important that a common approach is adopted to developing local delivery plans, associated performance accountability frameworks and measuring**

success/ impact of services and interventions – adopting an outcome-based approach.

- Support in principle the proposed creation of Area Integration Partnership Boards (AIPB), however, would recommend that further consideration and discussion takes place on the proposed composition of AIPB. The proposed nomination of 1 lead officer to represent Community Planning/ Council on the AIPB is not suffice. Highlight that the Council wishes to explore its own potential role and representation on AIPB and within the ICS model given its role in delivering services and support, and strong connections with local communities.
- Important that the AIPB and the proposed sub-structures at a 'locality' and 'community' level relate and align with CPPs, structures and key areas of work i.e. development of integrated area planning model, to avoid duplication.
- In developing the new ICS model, consideration must be given to ensuring boundaries are co-terminus with the 11 local council boundaries; highlighting the fact that currently two Health Trusts (i.e. Belfast HSCT and South Eastern HSCT) currently cover Belfast LGD. This approach would support and enable a more integrated, place-based participatory approach to planning and delivery of services.
- Highlight the synergies between the development timescale for the ICS model and the co-design of the refreshed Belfast Agenda (2022-2026) underway, with March 2022 being a key joint milestone. Opportunity presented to align and integrate the planning processes and support a collaborative and whole-system approach to addressing population health needs.
- We welcome the discussions to date with DoH colleagues and would relish the opportunity to continue engagement to maximise the opportunities and impact of the new ICS model and explore how we strengthen the linkages and alignment to Council and Community Planning, including; strategic direction; governance arrangements; timeframes; roles and expectations; co-design processes; representation and levels of representation.
- We welcome the opportunity to continue to engage with DoH colleagues and other partners to help bring forward the ICS model; further considering the governance arrangements to be brought forward and how they relate with existing local structures as well as understanding the anticipated timescales and sequencing of the proposed three-phased approach to introducing the new ICS model.

### **Members Engagement**

- 3.9 It should be noted that colleagues from the Belfast Health and Social Care Board are attending the Members' Area Working

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**Groups this month to outline the proposals for a new ICS model and discuss Members views. The draft Council response has been prepared in parallel, any comments raised by Members at the AWGs will be raised at Committee and the response amended accordingly.**

**Financial & Resource Implications**

**3.10 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**3.11 There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications in relation to the draft consultation response.”**

The Committee:

- noted that representatives from the Belfast Health and Social Care Board would be attending the next round of Area Working Group meetings to outline the Board's proposals to develop a new Integrated Care System (ICS), which would enable further consideration and discussion by the Members; and
- approved the draft consultation response available [here](#), subject to the inclusion of any additional feedback from the aforementioned meetings and agreed that the draft document be submitted by the deadline of 17th September 2021, advising that it was subject to Council ratification on 4th October.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Partner Agreements Update**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven sites and he then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for April – June 2021.

He advised that regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance had been undertaken at all sites. All partners had been compliant on these matters apart from East Belfast Football Club, which was outstanding a financial report, and a non-compliance notice had been issued.

As previously agreed, funding of up to £20,000 per annum was available for each partner for the delivery of a programme (supporting the Sports Development Plan). The Director reported that letters of offer had been sent to all partners based on approved sports development plans for the current financial year.

The Committee was advised that, given the current Covid19 restrictions, the usual end of quarter monitoring meetings had not been held face to face with the partners but parks management and sports development officers had kept in contact via phone calls for updates on site management and bookings, health and safety, finance, and their sports development plans. Action plans had been reviewed and agreed with the partners during these discussions

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to ensure that the planned outcomes were achieved, and improvements identified where required.

He explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and he advised that, despite the Covid19 restrictions, the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites. He drew the Members' attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by the partners for Quarter 1 (April – June 2021).

Following a query from a Member regarding the possibility of establishing a Partner agreement for the new Blanchflower Asset, the Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the existing Partner Agreements Policy had been established following an open Expression of Interest process in respect of the specific sites and that it had been for an initial period of five years, with the option to extended for an additional period of two years and that it was now currently in year six.

As previously reported at the August meeting, it was anticipated that any new requests could therefore be considered as part of a new Community Asset Transfer process, proposals for which were currently being drawn up by officers. He advised that it was anticipated that a report outlining the details of the proposal would be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Variation to Partner Agreement –  
Loughside Playing Fields**

As detailed in the previous report, Partner Agreements were currently in operation at seven playing field sites across the city, one of these being Loughside Playing Fields. These agreements had all recently been extended for a further year, beyond the initial five-year Partner Agreement period, based on satisfactory performance by the Partners.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that, in each of the Partner Agreements, apart from Loughside Playing Fields, the agreements had defined areas of responsibility which included keyholding and service operations of the changing rooms and toilets. The agreement with Loughside Playing Fields included keyholding responsibility which only permitted the Partner access to a small office space, all other keyholding/operations at the pitch changing rooms and toilets had been undertaken by Loughside Recreation Centre staff.

The Committee was advised that a suggested variation to the existing agreement proposed to include additional responsibilities for the Partner, these would include further keyholding and service operations by way of a variation agreement.

In order to facilitate the proposed change to the agreement, some minor works had been carried out to the interior of the building at Loughside Playing Fields. These included the installation of an external door that would enable the Council to extend the Partner's area of responsibility to the changing rooms, whilst removing access to the remainder of the building. Consultation had taken place with the Partner who had advised that they would be

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willing to increase their area of responsibility within the building, this would align their Partner Agreement with the others, subject to relevant terms and conditions (to be determined by the Council).

The Committee agreed to vary the terms of the Agreement at Loughside Playing Fields, specifically to extend the Partner's area of responsibility within the building to include access to four team changing rooms plus male and female toilets.

**Ormeau Park BMX Track**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held on 10th August, approval had been granted for the Council to work in partnership with Cycling Ulster to support its bid to the Whitemountain Programme to access external funding to upgrade the BMX track in Ormeau Park. The proposed upgraded track would facilitate increased usage for structured training and sports development activities and enhance the facility for general recreational use by the public.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that Cycling Ulster had submitted an application to the Whitemountain Programme, which had reverted to Cycling Ulster, seeking confirmation, before 29th October, that planning permission was not required for the upgrade works and that a formal agreement be put in place which would clearly articulate the availability of access to the site for public recreational use.

In terms of the planning issue, Cycling Ulster had indicated that it would provide this either through their professional advisers or through a statement from Belfast City Council Planning Office.

The Director detailed that, in terms of the formal agreement regarding availability, Cycling Ulster had requested that the Council would establish a Preferential Use Agreement with them, stipulating the following.

- the opening hours of the site and the hours during which it would be available to the general public;
- the limited number of hours during which the site would be closed to the public for Cycling Ulster preferential use;
- the booking system which the Council would operate for Cycling Ulster use;
- that the booking would not be required for recreational use; and
- that the site would be open for recreational use at no charge at all other times.

The Members were reminded that similar agreements were in place which afforded preferential use to other partner organisations. Generally, such agreements provided either significant financial contribution to help develop the Council asset or contributed to delivering local sports development outcomes at the site.

Several Members referred to the facility and stated that they would welcome the introduction of similar facilities across the city. A number of other specific queries were also raised in regard to the current status of previous requests.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Members with an assurance that officers would be looking at improvements across the whole of the city in terms

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of the Parks Estate through the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS). He confirmed that projects currently on the list had not been forgotten about but stated that they needed to be managed collaboratively to ensure the best use of open spaces across all areas of the city. He also confirmed that, as with this request, where possible, external funding opportunities were identified and applied for, however, these were not always successful.

Following a query from a Member regarding the specific request by Cycling Ulster to close the track for a limited number of hours and the potential impact that this might have on existing recreational users of the track, the Director of Neighbourhood Services suggested that the Committee grant approval 'in principle' to allow for a preferential agreement to be drawn up to enable the proposal to proceed, on the basis that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would provide more clarity in regard to the specific request for priority use of the track.

The Committee:

- granted approval 'in principle' for a preferential use agreement to be developed with Cycling Ulster in relation to the BMX track at Ormeau Park, subject to further details being submitted to a future meeting specifically in regard to the proposed priority use of the track at limited times by Cycling Ulster;
- noted that the proposal was subject to Cycling Ulster accessing external partnership funding to upgrade the existing track; and
- agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would consider the provision of similar facilities across the city.

**Alleyway Transformation - scheme pilots**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting in December 2020, considered a report from officers on Alley-gating, Alleyway Transformation and Un-adopted alleyways.**

**1.2 This report provides the committee with an update on progress to date, in particular, the ongoing discussions with officials from the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) on accessing funding available to support Alleyway Transformation projects.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note the update on alleyway transformation and un-adopted alleyways and to agree the delivery of a number of pilot alleyway transformation schemes throughout the city.**

**3.0 Key Issues**

- 3.1** Members are reminded that the December 2020 report provide an update on work officers have been carrying out in respect of un-adopted alleyways, alley transformation and sourcing financial support for alleyway transformation schemes.
- 3.2** The report identified the top 20 problematic un-adopted alleyways in the city and beginning with the top 4 (one from each area of the city) a cross departmental group was set up to identify ownership and engage the relevant statutory authorities to deal with the problems found. The work of this group was paused as a result of the pandemic but will recommence once resources are in place to proceed.
- 3.3** In December 2020, the DFI Minister wrote to all Councils in Northern Ireland offering monies via the Blue/Green Infrastructure fund to deliver alleyway transformation initiatives across Northern Ireland. Due to the Pandemic Officers were not in a position to engage at that time but have been in discussions with officials from the Department since early summer with regard to how much funding was available to the Council, how the Council could access this money and to understand the scope of the fund. Discussions also explored the possibility utilising this funding to support bringing un-adopted alleyways up to an adoptable standard.
- 3.4** DFI confirmed that £1-2 million is available to all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland but as yet no set criterion has been developed as to how it can be accessed and what it can be utilised for.
- 3.5** Initial engineering survey work has identified that the cost for upgrading unadopted alleyways, to meet an adoption standard would consume most of the proposed Dfl budget, which is to be allocated across all the councils in Northern Ireland. As a result, it was felt that given the limited pot of money available it would be better to focus on transformation schemes that could be delivered at a lesser cost.
- 3.6** This would enable the monies to be spent on the transformation of alleyways, through cleaning and greening interventions. This would not prohibit un-adopted alleyways from taking part in the scheme, but this would be dependant on their condition.
- 3.7** DFI have agreed that in order to test the processes required to deliver an alleyway transformation scheme, a number of pilot projects be initiated, to develop a framework which will be used for a larger programme, and be a path-finding exercise, for other councils as a recognised method to access the Dfl monies.

- 3.8 Pilots projects will involve the community receiving a `Starter Pack` of materials and information to support the regeneration of alleyways and deliver a transformation project.

The pack would / should include: -

- a. Plants, planters, soil / compost, seats etc.
  - b. Planting / growing / basic wooden planter and willow plant support (trellis) workshops to develop community capacity for the longevity of the project.
  - c. Signposting communities to other departments and agencies for issues not within the remit or responsibility of BCC.
  - d. Signposting communities to funding opportunities they could avail of to further develop and maintain the area after BCC / DFI funding has been utilised.
  - e. Legal information / liabilities and ownership of alleyways.
- 3.9 It is anticipated that the cost for delivering a starter pack could be up to £7500. DFI will fund the purchasing of all equipment, plants, baskets, street furniture however as there is no revenue budget within this programme, the capacity building element of the pilot will have to be provided by Council from within existing budgets.
- 3.10 To enable the pilot to be progressed at pace, Officers are suggesting that through our Outreach teams we identify up to 5 potential alleyway sites across each of the 4 quadrants of the city, based on officer knowledge, community infrastructure and delivery of improved outcomes. The long list of five will be circulated to Members on a North, South, East & West basis for consideration and prioritisation of the long list. Following receipt of the prioritisation exercise, Officers will move forward to deliver the pilot alleyway transformation projects in 2 locations per quadrant.

**Longer term alleyway transformation schemes**

- 3.11 At the May SP&R committee members considered a paper on alleygating and the process for Members to input into the identification of gate locations, through pro-forma, which is due to be issued imminently. As part of this pro-forma members will be asked to identify potential gating locations as well as locations suitable for alley transformation, for further consideration at SP&R committee and Area Working Groups over the autumn.
- 3.12 On receipt of this information officers will be in a better position to understand the demand for transformation schemes across the city, collate the learnings from the pilot projects and bid into £1-2



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**million fund for monies to support a future alleyway transformation programmes in the City.**

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.13 Capital expenditure associated with the alleyway transformation programme will be accessed via the DFI alleyway transformation scheme with outreach and capacity building support supported via existing Council resources.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.14 None associated with this report.”**

A Member welcomed the report but made reference to the number of unadopted alleyways that remained throughout the city and she sought an assurance that the cross departmental team currently working on this would continue this valuable work and that the Committee would be kept apprised of the progress.

Several Members concurred and stated that, whilst they welcomed the funding, they were disappointed that it was likely to only cover the transformation of a small number of existing alleyways, through cleaning and greening interventions, which in no way helped to address the huge desire from communities across the city to bring un-adopted and unsafe alleyways to an adoptable standard.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that this workstream was iterative and that unadopted alleyways would be considered as part of the longer-term scheme.

A further Member referred to the fact that in certain areas, particularly in the south and east of the city, landlords were disposing of rubbish in the alleyways during house clearances which was subsequently getting lifted free of charge by the Council, he stated that this was an unacceptable regular occurrence which needed to be addressed.

A Member referred to the pilot and the proposal for officers to identify 5 potential alleyway sites per area for Members prioritisation to identify the top 2 for each of the 4 quadrants of the city. The Member suggested that the potential sites should be referred to the relevant Area Working Group (AWGs) for its consideration, with the aim of each AWG eventually selecting the final areas to proceed. He stated that he would like to see more flexibility in terms of how the final funding awarded to each of the 4 areas was actually utilised. Therefore, should the AWG feel that it had the capacity to deliver all 5 schemes in their area (albeit, potentially much smaller schemes), that authority should be delegated to the AWG to agree the final number for selection.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Baker,  
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee agrees to the delivery of a number of pilot alleyway transformation schemes throughout the city and further agrees that the final

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area selection, number of pilots and the detail of intervention be delegated to the Area Working Groups who would be asked to adopt a flexible approach as to how the funding was allocated.

On a vote, twelve Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Community Provision Funding Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek members views on the funding approach in respect of the Councils Revenue, Capacity and Advice grants for 2022/2023.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Members of the Committee are asked to.**

- **Agree to extend the existing Community Development Grants’ funding agreements for Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Buildings and Advice to the 31 March 2023 (at the current funding allocation, subject to confirmation of the 22/23 funding allocation from DfC), including extending the previously agreed bridging funding for St. Simon’s Hall.**
- **Note the reprofile of the agreed annual BCC contribution of £90,000 to Active Belfast. Funding will be used to extend funding agreements with current Active Belfast grant holders in order to complete their original programmes in 2021-22 and provide a budget for developmental projects and the re-profile of £23,133 from the BCC budget to Jog Belfast.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Community Provision Capacity, Buildings Revenue and Advice Grants 22/23**

**3.2 Background**

**Council’s capacity, buildings revenue and advice grants aim to promote and invest in a resilient and effective independent community sector across the city by offering a number of different funding streams that any eligible group operating in Belfast can apply for:**

### **Capacity Building**

Aimed at Lead community development organisations that advocate the interests of their local groups, area and residents; and support local groups to ensure good practice in governance, committee procedures, appropriate policies and financial management.

### **Revenue for Community Buildings**

Aimed at community organisations which address the needs of their community by delivering a broad-based programme from their building. The building may be used by the local neighbourhood, or the community may be from across the whole city for a thematic/special interest group.

### **Advice Funding**

Council provides funding for generalist advice services to five area-based Consortia, consisting of 20 Advice Organisations throughout the city. The level of funding is based on an allocation formula (weighted for population size and level of deprivation) agreed by Council in 2015. There is a stipulation by the DfC that all groups must be registered with the regional body, Advice NI, and adhere to a range of policies and quality standards.

Funding for the grants programme comes from two main sources, Council and DfC via the Community Support Programme (CSP). At August Committee members agreed to accept the CSP Letter of Offer (LoO) from DfC, which also included 2 additional allocations for Welfare Mitigations Extensions.

## **3.3 Key Considerations**

In normal circumstances, applications under the capacity and revenue grant schemes are normally facilitated through an open call in October of each year, for activity in the upcoming financial year. Application calls are required to take place in October to allow application development, assessment and award of grants.

Members are aware that as a result of COVID, contracts associated with our revenue and capacity grants had been extended from 2020/2021 at the same allocation level into 2021/2022. This extension allowed communities to sustain current services and continue to focus on delivery and recovery during the pandemic.

Members will also be aware that our Community / Voluntary sector partners continue to support communities to recover from the pandemic and many have had to adjust how they approach their service delivery to comply with our 'new normal'.

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In recognition of the current focus of the Community / Voluntary sector, Officers are seeking member approval to extend the current contracts until March 2023 rather than proceed with an open call in October 2021.

This extension would be on the basis that officers undertake a review of the Capacity and Buildings Revenue Grants, aligning with DfC revised outcomes and our Community Provision priorities in readiness for an open call in October 2022 for delivery from April 2023 – March 2026.

In addition, Officers will conduct research to understand the changing needs and priorities of communities and organisations as we move to phased recovery and consider how we fully utilise resources to support the development of neighbourhoods and organisations.

Given the importance of ensuring there is support for communities where there may be low or no community capacity, it is proposed the following programmes of activity would be delivered to ensure those communities were in a position to apply for the recommended open call for 22/23 grants:

- **Enhanced Capacity building support – members will recall that officers have committed to the development of a Capacity Pilot Programme that will provide an additional resource for organisations who are not successful in accessing sufficient funding because of capacity limitations. Officers are developing a Capacity Programme which will provide support for organisations in 22/23. Further detail will be brought back to committee and Area Working Groups in November/December.**
- **Community Provision grants – these grants which have been successfully delivered as micro and medium grants will be made available for project activity in 22/23. Feedback on this approach, which combines a range of community provision funding, has been very positive, particularly because of the reduced levels of bureaucracy enabling new organisations to participate**

The recommendation to extend current contracts and undertake a review of the current process is based on the following considerations:

- **Community and voluntary partners report that Covid has had a significant impact on service delivery, governance, staff and volunteer availability. An open call in October 21 would not provide sufficient time for organisations to**

accurately capture and reflect emerging needs and will add pressure to an already stretched sector.

- DfC has conducted a review of the Community Support Programme which provides the majority of the finance for council capacity and revenue funding. A key recommendation from the review is that the department adopts an Outcomes Based Approach for its future funding programmes; this review is currently with the minister for consideration. Postponing the open call will provide council with an opportunity to revisit our Community Development Grants and ensure alignment with revised future DfC outcomes.
- Delivering an open call now does not give sufficient time to give communities with low or no capacity to be effectively supported by Council to enable their participation and inclusion in future Council grant programmes.
- Carrying out an open call for this funding now will put pressure on existing council community services and create an order of competing priorities in already under-resourced service teams. Each stage of the process requires significant staff time, from support to develop applications through to assessment and verification of funding to date. Officers recommend that given the pressures in the CVS they need to prioritise support and a reassessment of the current approach to ensure that it meets the current and emerging needs of the sector.

#### **3.4 St. Simon's Hall**

At February's Committee meeting members agreed the provision of a one off 'Bridging Support' to Southcity Resource and Development Centre for revenue costs associated with St Simons Hall. Should members agree to extend the current grant contracts to March 2023. St. Simon's will not have the opportunity of applying for a Revenue Grant. Thus based on the previous decision rationale, it is recommended the St. Simon's contract is extended in keeping with any extension to the capacity and buildings revenue grant programme at a cost of £18,000.

#### **3.5 Active Belfast**

Active Belfast (AB) is a multi-agency partnership supporting physical activity and healthy eating in Belfast, the partnership is currently undertaking a review of its operation and a report with further information will be provided at a later date. Two of the main initiatives supported by Active Belfast include the Active Belfast grant scheme (supports participation in physical activity) and Jog

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Belfast (couch to 5k programme), these initiatives are administered by staff in the Belfast Health Development Unit (BHDU).

In 2019 Active Belfast agreed to a two year funding programme from 2019/21 to increase capacity and foster sustainability at community level. In April 2021, in order to respond to the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic, partners agreed that Active Belfast would contribute a proportion of its grant funds towards the Belfast City Council Micro and Medium Grants Scheme for 21/22. This approach is intended to enhance access to funding for physical activity and nutrition focussed work in Belfast. BHDU staff will provide advice on the physical activity & healthy eating elements of successful BCC Micro/Medium grant projects.

Given the impact of Covid 19 on delivery of 2019/21 projects, officers have adopted the following approach for 21/22 which members are asked to note that;

- current Active Belfast grant holders will be offered continuation funding in order to complete their original programmes/initiatives in 2021-22. This will be subject to meeting key performance indicators.
- a developmental budget will be used for Active Belfast Partnership supported projects and initiatives, again this will be subject to meeting key indicators.

In addition, members are advised that the additional in year re-profile to Jog Belfast of £23,133 is provided from the existing BCC 90k contribution to Active Belfast.

Members should note that this request will be met within existing budgets as outlined below:

<b>BCC</b>	<b>£39,970</b>	<b>Contribution to BCC Covid Recovery Grants Micro/Medium Grant</b>
<b>PHA</b>	<b>£39,970</b>	<b>Contribution to BCC Covid Recovery Grants Micro/Medium Grant</b>
<b>PHA</b>	<b>£73,163</b>	<b>Active Belfast Partnership budget to support AB grants from 20/21 and developmental activities</b>
<b>BCC</b>	<b>£26,897</b>	<b>Active Belfast Partnership budget to support AB grants from 20/21 and developmental activities</b>

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<b>PHA</b>	<b>£32,867</b>	<b>Jog Belfast</b>
<b>BCC</b>	<b>£23,133</b>	<b>Jog Belfast</b>

**3.6 Financial & Resource Implications**

**The financial and resource implications detailed within this report and their implementation will ensure a more effective use of staff and financial resources in a context with continuing pressures on community and voluntary partners.**

**3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment**

**This will be considered throughout and any appropriate issues highlighted to Members. Any amendments to existing scheme or new scheme will be considered in the context of any equality/Good Relations and rural needs considerations.”**

Following a query from a Member, the Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the Members were being asked to agree ‘in principle’ to roll forward the contracts into 2022/23. He explained that the final allocation of funding into 2022/23 would only be made once the DfC had formally confirmed the Council’s allocation which was the same arrangement as the current year.

A number of Members stated that the community groups needed the security of this funding and stated that they felt that it was essential that the officer’s recommendation within the report, to extend the existing Community Development Grant funding agreements for Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Buildings and Advice to the 31st March 2023 (at the current funding allocation, subject to confirmation of the 2022/23 funding allocation from DfC) be adopted, which also included extending the previously agreed bridging funding for St Simon’s Hall.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Bunting,  
Seconded by Alderman McCoubrey,

That the Committee agrees not to the extend the existing Community Development Grants’ funding agreements for Capacity Building, Revenue for Community Buildings and Advice to the 31 March 2023 and that it reverts to an open call for funding.

On a vote, seven Members voted for the proposal and seven against.

**Casting Vote**

There being an equality of votes, the Chairperson, Councillor Cobain, exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was declared carried.

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On this basis, the Committee further:

- agreed not to extend the previously agreed bridging funding for St. Simon's Hall; and
- noted the reprofile of the agreed annual BCC contribution of £90,000 to Active Belfast and that funding would be used to extend funding agreements with current Active Belfast grant holders in order to complete their original programmes in 2021-22 and to provide a budget for developmental projects and the re-profile of £23,133 from the BCC budget to Jog Belfast.

**Boxing Strategy Quarterly Update**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to provide £200,000 in funding to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) in the current financial year for delivery of an agreed action plan which supported the Belfast Boxing Strategy and he then provided an update on the progress in relation to the agreement up to the end of June 2021.

He explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group had met quarterly. The Steering Group was chaired by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and attended by Council officers, IABA officers and officials and Co. Antrim officials.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had previously agreed a total of 37 Indicators with the IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. The Director reported that the IABA had been compliant with all the reporting requirements. He advised that the IABA had provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and planned to ensure that all targets were achieved at year end. Whilst the performance reports indicated some significant underperformance against targets, he highlighted that it was important to note that participation in boxing had been heavily restricted under the Covid19 restrictions, given that boxing was a full contact indoor sport. Where possible, the IABA had mitigated against this by modifying delivery of many elements to online methods.

The Committee was advised that the 2021 – 2022 action plan had been developed with this in mind and therefore many of the indoor contact-based elements had been programmed into Q3 and Q4 of this financial year.

The Committee noted the progress update report regarding the IABA.

**Operational Issues**

**Pest Control Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 A report outlining the ongoing recovery of the pest control service was presented to Committee in June of this year. The report highlighted some of the difficulties faced by the pest control team in resuming home treatments and other aspects of the service. We**



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agreed to keep the recovery of the service and the measures we had put in place under close review and the purpose of this report is to update Members on the current position.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1** The Committee is asked to note the current position and waiting times for pest control services and the actions being taken to manage its ongoing recovery.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1** In the June committee report Members were reminded of the significant impact the pandemic has had on the staff and delivery therefore delivery of service due to furlough, contact tracing and shielding etc. However, despite significantly reduced resources, the Pest Control service continued to deliver the sewer baiting programme throughout that time and residents were offered advice and information. The tenants of social housing were advised to contact their housing provider to obtain pest control services.

**3.2** In September of last year, the service was able to resume some home treatments, however, risk assessments and health and safety controls meant that these could only be provided for the most vulnerable or if significant public health issues were identified. Most visits were restricted to external only, with officers providing advice and information.

**3.3** The pest control team continued to work with Corporate Health and Safety and when transmission rates reduced, and restrictions eased, further risk assessments, with additional safety measures, enabled home treatments to resume in June.

**3.4** In planning to resume the home treatments concerns were expressed by staff and Trade Unions that because of high demand for the service and the reduced number of visits that could be made in a day because of the additional safety requirements, there was potential for a long waiting list to build up very quickly. They were concerned about the negative impact that this could have on public perception of the service and, in turn, on staff morale.

**3.5** It was proposed to effectively manage the waiting list in the first instance by only undertaking home treatments in private rented sector and owner-occupied property and continuing to refer the tenants of social housing to the Housing Executive and Housing Associations.

**3.6** Given that our pest control service for treatment of public health pests are free of charge C&NS does not have an SLA or MoU with

the NI Housing Executive or Housing Associations. As such, at the request of Members, the Operational Director wrote to the Chief Executive of the NI Housing Executive and all Housing Associations advising them of our ongoing approach during the pandemic. A letter of response was received from the Housing Executive noting the approach.

- 3.7 The Operational Director also wrote to Northern Ireland Water regarding areas of the city that have been experiencing significant issues with rats, requesting the sewer systems in those areas be surveyed and any defects repaired. NIW responded positively and has commissioned survey work as requested. We will continue to liaise with NIW regarding the outcome of this work and any further action required.

3.8 Current Position

Since we resumed the home treatments in June, the waiting time for an internal treatment has fluctuated between 3-5 weeks and currently sits at 2 weeks. Unfortunately, increased transmission rates in Covid-19 and an increase in the number of people self-isolating during July and August has impacted on the home treatment service, with appointments having to be cancelled, sometimes at the time of the actual visit as the information on people self-isolating, asked by the visiting officer as a control measure, is only disclosed by the householder at that point. This coupled with employees testing positive for Covid-19 and others being required to self-isolate because of contact with someone who has tested positive, and summer leave, has made it difficult to manage the waiting time for appointments. We have done this by balancing resources between sewer treatments and home treatments, however the current waiting time for sewer treatments is 3 weeks. All resources are directed at managing these two aspects of our pest control service and we were unable therefore to recover our seasonal service of treating wasp nests.

- 3.9 In support of the ongoing recovery of the service we are in the process of recruiting a Pest Control Supervisor to provide additional support to the Pest Control Manager and the team. There is also an ongoing review of City Services and the resilience of the pest control service is being considered as part of that review. In the meantime, we are continuing with our current arrangements and controls for recovery of pest control and continue to monitor the waiting times and balance the service in line with guidance from Corporate Health and Safety and Human Resources.

- 3.10 It has also been established as requested by the committee, and communicated to committee members via email on 1st July 2021, that Elected Members can log requests for service with the

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**Customer Hub for other statutory agencies such as NI Water and NIHE. However, it should be understood that there is no method to track or update these requests when they are external to BCC.**

**3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

**There are no additional financial implications associated with this report.**

**3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**There are no implications associated with this report.”**

The Committee considered the report, during which several Members expressed the desire to resume pest control services to all citizens of the city, which would include tenants of social housing who had previously been asked during the pandemic to contact their local housing provider.

During discussion, the Members considered the role of the other statutory agencies and expressed concern that the Council appeared to be the public's first point of contact with any pest control issue, despite the fact that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and Housing Associations also offered a pest control service. Whilst the Members were in agreement that they wished to see a full resumption of pest control services to all ratepayers, there was a general consensus that there also needed to be an emphasis placed on the NIHE and local Housing Associations to pick up the costs of the Council providing this service on their behalf. The Director of City Services was therefore asked to investigate the establishment of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Housing Executive and Housing Associations, with a view to the Council recouping the costs of providing the service.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the current position and waiting times for pest control services and agreed to the resumption of pest control services to all ratepayers; and
- asked officers to investigate the establishment of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the NIHE and Housing Associations, with a view to the Council recouping the costs of providing a pest control service and to submit an update report to Committee in due course.

**The Queen's Green Canopy - Tree Planting Initiative  
celebrating the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 At the People and Communities Committee meeting on the 10th August 2021, Members were asked to consider a request received from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO to the Queen's Green Canopy, inviting Belfast City Council to celebrate Her Majesty's**

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**Platinum Jubilee and at the same time, promoting the importance of trees to the environment by planting trees in one of our Parks**

**1.2 Committee Members at that meeting recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of the 4th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to defer consideration of the report to enable information to be obtained by officers and submitted to a future meeting in regard to the proposed locations as to where the trees would be planted and to establish the varieties of the trees to be planted, ensuring that those selected were of a native species and to guarantee inclusion within the Council's One Million Tree planting initiative.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Agree to one (QGC) tree planting event proposed for Belmont Park, where 500 small native trees will be planted between November 2021 and March 2022, in the lead up to the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations planned for 3rd – 6th June 2022.**
- All 500 young, native trees planted as part of this (QGC) event will be automatically added to the Council's on-going One Million Tree planting running total.**
- Agree the Council's Outreach officer for the east of the city, work with local community groups to plan and take part in the proposed (QGC) event.**
- Agree to the installation of one small (QGC) plaque at the Belmont Park planting site.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 On 8th March 2021 correspondence was sent out to all the Chief Executives in Northern Ireland from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO to the Queen's Green Canopy inviting Councils to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.**

**3.2 Colonel Dan Rex invited representatives from Councils and other interested parties to an on-line presentation which took place on 22nd March 2021 and this was attended by representatives from Belfast City Council; Mid Ulster Council; Ards and North Down Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Council, Viscount Brookborough KG, The Earl of Caledon Lord -Lieutenant, Mathew Stewart, Abercorn Estate, Robert Scott Lord – Lieutenant Co Tyrone, Nicola Brady General Secretary.**

- 3.3 The presentation set out what the (QGC) project entailed:**
- 1. Thanking Her Majesty, the Queen for her exceptional service**
  - 2. To celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee**
  - 3. Promote the importance of trees to the environment**
  - 4. Involving communities; charities; schools; youth groups and councils in tree planting; creating a lasting legacy in honour of the Queen's leadership**
- 3.4 The (QGC) is particularly focused on supporting urban tree planting, in the most disadvantaged communities across Northern Ireland**
- 3.5 The (QGC) currently has a number of key partnerships in place and more are getting involved as the initiative gathers momentum:**
- Trees for Cities**
  - Forest Canopy Foundation**
  - Woodland Trust**
  - Royal Horticultural Society**
  - Royal Forestry Society**
- 3.6 Assessing where trees are planted each year continues to be on a rolling programme and is undertaken by local Park Managers with the assistance of the Council's Woodland/Arboricultural officers and in conjunction with site specific tree management plans. In this 2021/22 tree planting season, we will also be focussing our attention on woodland restoration, removing invasive species and replacing with more suitable native trees.**
- 3.7 Tree diseases are becoming more prevalent due to climate change; even our native ash trees are currently under serious threat due to the Ash Die-back disease, so it is important to plant a wide range of species, predominantly native, but it is equally important to include some non-native, larger ornamental trees, especially in keeping with previous tree planting in our Parks over the past one hundred years.. It should be noted that no tree, whether native or non- native is immune from pest and diseases, so the more varied tree planting undertaken, the better.**
- 3.8 Members are reminded that Council continues to forge ahead with the One Million Tree planting initiative which is running over a 15-year period and this year our park Managers have identified seven planting sites for the 2021/22 tree planting season, which includes the proposed Belmont park (QGC) planting site. All of the 3,700 proposed young trees (whips) will consist of native varieties such as: birch; bird cherry; hazel; scots pine; hawthorn; mountain ash and holly.**

**3.9** The department also plans to plant approximately 200 larger extra heavy standard trees, which are approximately 10' tall and these will consist of what is known in the tree nursery industry as 'ornamental/specimen trees' which are non-native, such as: maple; hornbeam; beech; sweet gum; cherry; lime; elm and dawn redwood. These larger trees will comprise of new and replacement planting.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

**None – Tree planting projects scheduled for 2021/2022 will come out of existing tree planting budgets and also out of a Woodland Trust 'Tree Emergency' fund. These monies are sufficient to cover the Council's planned one million trees contribution for 21/22 and the additional planting proposed under the QGC project.**

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**None."**

In response to a number of queries from a Member, the Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that he would arrange for the Council's Woodland Officer to liaise with the Member directly to discuss these in more detail.

The Committee:

- agreed to one (QGC) tree planting event proposed for Belmont Park, where 500 small native trees would be planted between November 2021 and March 2022, in the lead up to the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations planned for 3rd – 6th June 2022;
- noted that all 500 young, native trees planted as part of this (QGC) event would be automatically added to the Council's on-going One Million Tree planting running total;
- agreed that the Council's Outreach officer for the East of the city would liaise with local community groups to plan and take part in the proposed (QGC) event; and
- agreed to the installation of one small (QGC) plaque at the Belmont Park planting site.

**Request for the use of Ballysillan Car park for  
Drive-thru Gospel Event**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Gospel Van Ministries seeking to deliver a weeklong programme of drive thru gospel services at Ballysillan Playing Fields Carpark during October. The event would be set up on the tarmac carpark area which services both the park/playing fields and the leisure centre and confirmed that there should be adequate car parking for park and centre users.

The Committee granted permission for Gospel Van Ministries to deliver a weeklong programme of drive thru gospel services at Ballysillan Playing Fields Carpark, from Monday

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4th - Friday 8th October 2021 from 7.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:

- resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities;
- consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary; and
- ensure that the proposed event adheres to the relevant Government Covid19 Regulations in place at the time of the event.

Chairperson