



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Centre Regeneration Tracker
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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"/>
<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on the Regeneration Development Tracker for 2021 as aligned to the eight core policies of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS). The detail of this will be provided by way of a presentation at Committee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. An updated Regeneration Development Tracker for 2021, as aligned to the eight core principles set out in the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (as outlined below), will be provided by way of a presentation to be made to this Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>II. A further comprehensive summary report on the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy will be brought back to Committee in the</li> </ul>

	near future, which will provide a detailed update on the various thematic areas, projects and Special Action Areas as identified within BCCRIS.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) was produced by the Council in 2015 and was subsequently adopted by DfC. It represents the agreed regeneration policy for the city centre. It sets out the context for developing the city centre and connecting to the city around and outlines our aspirations for the continued growth and regeneration of the city core and it's connectivity with the surrounding area. The strategy is based on eight core policies for the city centre and a series of potential projects that translate the policies into action. The eight core policies are as follows:
3.2	<p><b>1) Increase the Employment Population</b></p> <p>Capitalise on Belfast's advantage of competitive costs of space and labour and a well-educated workforce. Support the development of new grade A office space and better connect the existing office provision within the centre so that appropriate space is available for firms.</p>
3.3	<p><b>2) Increase the Residential Population</b></p> <p>A significant residential population will be critical for the successful functioning of the city centre. There is a need to establish strong market confidence in the centre; remedy any key deficiencies in terms of liveability, attractiveness and connectivity and ensure connections with existing communities. Consider financial models to underpin and support increased city centre living and bring forward publicly owned sites and support the development of key privately owned sites.</p>
3.4	<p><b>3) Manage the Retail Offer</b></p> <p>Address the retail decline of the centre through a targeted and proactive approach to regeneration of retail areas and management of the city centre retail offer.</p>
3.5	<p><b>4) Maximise the Tourism Opportunity</b></p> <p>Take tourism in Belfast up a level by complimenting the existing offer with another big attraction and fostering the general buzz and activity of the centre. Establish Belfast as a key tourism location and work in partnership to amplify the Belfast brand related to music, food, literary and cultural events.</p>

3.6	<p><b>5) Create a Regional Learning and Innovation Centre</b></p> <p>Address Belfast's low level of innovation and by building on the strength of existing institutions in the centre and provision of flexible space for new businesses. Work with partners to support the continued investment in the city through education, research and development and job creation.</p>
3.7	<p><b>6) Create a Green Walkable Cyclable Centre</b></p> <p>Reduce the area of tarmac and increase green space in the city centre through provision of new open spaces, a comprehensive street scaping programme, develop key bike arterial routes, development of the Lagan Corridor as a recreational spine. Revitalise the public realm and implement Streets Ahead and address issues with the Inner Ring Road.</p>
3.8	<p><b>7) Connect to the Surrounding City</b></p> <p>Reduce barriers between the city centre and the communities that surround it by connecting to activity in adjacent neighbourhoods, developing new access points such as walkways, crossing routes over the River Lagan, potential reconfiguration of road infrastructure, improving pedestrian crossings where feasible, street scaping key corridors and improving the built form relationship at the edge of the city centre.</p>
3.9	<p><b>8) Enhance Shared Space and Social Impact.</b></p> <p>Ensure that the city centre is a welcoming and attractive place for everyone in Belfast through the design and programming of space.</p>
3.10	<p>BCCRIS also identified 5 Special Action Areas as parts of the centre where more intensive masterplans or interventions should be prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inner North</li> <li>- Inner West</li> <li>- North East Corridor</li> <li>- Transport Hub and South Centre</li> <li>- Oxford Street and Eastern Bank</li> </ul>
3.11	<p>Belfast continues to face a range of economic, social and environmental challenges not envisaged when BCCRIS was adopted. Despite this, the priorities within BCCRIS,</p>

3.12	<p>together with Council's Future City Programme and the Bolder Vision remain very relevant.</p> <p>Whilst various reports have been brought to Members in respect of individual projects and programmes of work aligned to BCCRIS, a comprehensive summary report will be brought back to Committee in the near future, which will provide an update on the various thematic areas, projects and Special Action Areas and recommendations as appropriate in respect of key areas. The Regeneration Development Tracker presentation being brought to Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February provides a snapshot of activity during 2021 within Belfast City Centre (including Titanic Quarter) against the eight core policies of BCCRIS.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents attached</b>
	None