

Title of Report: Annual Service Plan – Environment & Regeneration Directorate	Officer Presenting: Director of Environment & Regeneration Author: Director of Environment & Regeneration
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members approval to adopt a Service Plan for 2018/19 for the Environment & Regeneration Directorate and to consider some of the achievements from 2017/18.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware that Councils are subject to a statutory performance improvement regime. In order to assist with this duty, Officers have drawn up a Service Plan for the Environment & Regeneration Directorate, outlining services provided and performance during 2017/18, performance and improvement objectives and targets across the Directorate for 2018/19.
- 2.2 Members will be aware that the Environment & Regeneration Directorate provides the following services:

Under the Environment Department

- Street cleansing and public realm management
- Refuse collection and waste and resource management
- Parks, play and greenway development and management
- Property, plant, fleet management
- Cemeteries and burials

Under the Capital Projects and Building Control Department

- To provide construction design consultancy providing civil and structural engineering, architectural, cost engineering, arboriculture and landscape design services together with project management, planning and programming services for Councils capital projects and for partner stakeholders and Central Government
- Street signage and bus shelters
- Street naming and postal numbering
- Processing of building control applications

- Administering of property certificates
- Energy management

Under the Planning Department

- Development management of local and major planning applications
- Progress the production of the Local Development Plan
- To carry out planning enforcement
- To designate conservation areas

Under the Regeneration Service

- To lead on heritage led regeneration
- To undertake physical streetscape improvements
- To undertake regeneration master planning

3 Key Issues

3.1 The Service Plan outlines the purpose of the Directorate, the services provided and a summary of resources. The Plan also highlights achievements from 2017/18 and improvement objectives, an improvement plan and measures of success for 2018/19.

3.2 In addition to provision of day to day services, a number of specific achievements were noted during 2017/18.

3.3 Some of the achievements during 2017/18 include:

- The newly opened £5.7m Brooke Park achieved a number of accolades including:

Being shortlisted for a National Association of Public Sector Excellence Award for Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative.

Being highly commended at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Awards for Community Benefit

Being awarded a Green Flag Award by Keep NI Beautiful.

- Opening of the new £520k play park at Strathfoyle.
- Completion of £400k of public realm works at St Columb's Park House.

- Completion of two play parks at Brandywell (£700k) and Ballyarnett (£600k) and the commencement of £2m worth of works on site at play parks in Kilfennan and Ballymagroarty.
- Completion of construction of new £7m football stadium and separate dog track at Brandywell.
- Roll out and promotion of food waste collection service. At present more than 80% of households have a food waste collection service and plans are in place to ensure the service is rolled out to the remaining households by the end of May 2018.
- Completion of Gransha Greenway Phase 4 through the Gransha Estate. Officers are currently working with WHSCT to extend this route beyond the Gransha Estate.
- Planning permission secured for £1.2m worth of greenways at Clooney and Kilfennan

- Recruitment of officer team and appointment of Design Team to take forward the €18m North West Greenways project – 46.5km of greenway across 3 cross border routes.
- Progressed the Climate Project in conjunction with project partners – the acronym stands for Community Led Initiative Managing and Transforming the Environment with the project supporting the regions' readiness for anticipated climate change.
- Awarded Britain in Bloom Gold Award, awarded Best Kept City in Northern Ireland at Best Kept Awards, awarded winner in City category of Ulster in Bloom Awards.
- Appointment of the Council's first District-wide Built Heritage Officer as part of the joint heritage development 3-year pilot initiative between Council and DfC Historic Environment Division
- Planning permission secured in respect of the proposed Ballynagard Social Housing & Community Regeneration Project
- On-site commencement of final 3 heritage-led regeneration capital projects as part of the Walled City Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)
- Preparation & submission of €8.5m Riverine funding application to the SEUPB's PEACE IV 'Shared Spaces' measure for a proposed community district park in Strabane & Lifford
- Completion of the shopfront enhancement scheme 'ReStore' on Clooney Terrace & Strand Road, and the submission of a £250k Revitalisation shopfront enhancement scheme for Strabane town centre
- Awarded Active Travel Workplace of the Year at the UK Healthy Streets Awards.
- Adopted Zero Waste Strategy in conjunction with Zero Waste North West.
- Upgraded Christmas lights in Donemana, Sion Mills and Newtownstewart.

- The team worked with two rural communities in Victoria Bridge and Magheramason to enter the Pride of Place Awards. Victoria Bridge were awarded a Pride of Place Award.
- In the 11 months to the end of February 2018, the Building Control section received applications with a construction value of more than £166 million.
- An increase of 24% in planning decisions issued, a 29% increase in approved applications with an overall approval rate of 96.2%.
- Local Development Plan (LDP) – the LDP Preferred Papers Option (POP) was published in May 2017 followed by a consultation period from June to August 2017.
- Approved and issued the highest number of Major residential developments in Northern Ireland, 6 so far in the first two quarters of this year 2017/18 and 9 which was the highest in NI for last year, culminating to a total of 1078 dwelling units, 835 Social and 243 Private. Many of these are also accompanied by legal planning agreements securing comprehensive development and facilitating associated infrastructure and open space in order to deliver sustainable communities.
- The EU Improve pilot project continues successfully to offer enhanced engagement opportunities for stakeholders, statutory consultees and wider public to input into the LDP and expanded /integrated the program this year into Development Management function.
- The 'Best Place in Northern Ireland Award' was received from Royal Town Planning Institute for Derry/Londonderry for historic core Peace Bridge and Ebrington.

3.4 In addition to provision of services across all our departments, the Environment & Regeneration Directorate will focus on the following key activities/actions in order to work towards achieving our improvement objective that we will protect and enhance the environment through creating and supporting a culture of environmental stewardship.

- Complete the technical design of the £10m maritime museum at Ebrington as a stand out nationally significant cultural and learning attraction.
- Develop a regionally significant regeneration masterplan for the Canal Basin site in Strabane, in conjunction with the completion of the developed design and contribute to the completion of the business case for a new £15 strategic leisure facility for the town as the initial significant investment at this site.
- Protecting and enhancing the built environment of Strabane Town centre by the technical design of a £4m high quality, flexible public realm scheme to tender stage.
- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment of our parks and green spaces by the completing the construction of three high quality district play parks at Ballymagroaty, Kilfennan & Drumahoe, Derry, with a cost of approximately £3m.
- Create integrated, sustainable and accessible transport infrastructure and promote modal shift with the commencement of the construction of the £500k extension of the Waterside greenway from Ebrington to the new £27m North West Multimodal Hub in Derry.
- Develop the technical design of three new cross-border greenways between Derry-Buncrana, Derry-Muff & Strabane-Lifford, totalling 46km in length and costing €18m.
- Participate and collaborate on a range of innovative pan-European energy efficiency programmes, including the piloting of pilot projects within our Council area.
- Contribute to the creation of £50m worth of new regional sport and leisure facilities at Templemore, Derry and Canal basin site in Strabane by the compilation of business case and developed designs.

- Provision of technical assistance to the Rural Development Programme Team in the completion of village cluster plans for the Council's rural area
- As part of the Council's Built Heritage Development pilot initiative (in conjunction with HED), identification of actions to support the delivery of a District-wide Built Heritage Plan
- Secure Stage I approval & development of a Stage II proposal for the HLF Townscape Heritage (TH) funding for the delivery of a heritage-led physical regeneration capital scheme for Derry City Centre
- Design & apply for funding for a heritage-led shopfront enhancement scheme for Newtonstewart conservation area
- Design, coordinate and deliver an international heritage regeneration conference focussing on the historic walled city in conjunction with Inner City Trust
- Design and apply for funding for a conservation-led environmental improvement scheme for the Bishop Street Car Park
- Design and apply for funding for the restoration of the City Walls Plinth Project
- Produce a public realm plan for the environs adjacent to the multi-modal transport hub at Duke Street
- Produce a regeneration masterplan for the former Faughan Valley School site at Drumahoe
- Continued coordination with the Urban Villages Reference Group & Coordinators in the delivery of the actions identified for the UV area
- Design and apply for funding for the delivery of an urban regeneration 'Revitalisation' scheme for Abercorn Road
- Continued coordination in the design/development of major social housing/community capital regeneration projects at Ballynagard, The Glen and Rathmor Road
- Commence implementation of strategic Improvement Review of Planning Service

- Progress the Local Development Plan to plan strategy stage including sustainability, appraisal, EQIA and rural proofing
- As part of the development of the Transport Hub, progress with the procurement of a municipal public bike hire scheme, active travel programme, advance development of the cross border greenway project.
- Engage with stakeholders to establish a Zero Waste Forum to progress key actions within the strategy. Take forward the Circular Economy agenda locally.
- Promote and enhance the biodiversity of the district through community engagement initiatives, environmental projects such as habitat creation. Progress the Green Infrastructure Plan
- Progress development of the Top of the Hill Masterplan, progress with works at Drumahoe District Park and progress the St Columb's Pk masterplan in consultation with local communities. Review and submit Riverine Project

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications

- 4.1 The Directorate has a net revenue budget of £22,452,000 and is responsible for taking forward the Council's proposed £300m capital development programme.
- 4.2 The Directorate has more than 400 officers.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to adopt the attached Service Plan for 2018/19.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Environment & Regeneration Service Plan 2018/19.

Appendix 2 – E&R Covalent Report