



## **Belfast City Council response to South West Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's Action plan (2007)**

### **Background**

South West Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership was established in June 2005 to facilitate the implementation of the Neighbourhood Renewal programme in the communities of the Greater Village, Mid-Donagall Road and Sandy Row.

The Partnership comprises representation from the community, statutory and private sectors as well as representation from elected members of Belfast City Council.

It developed a Statement of Readiness and Vision Statement and Framework, both of which have been approved by Government and is currently developing its Neighbourhood Action Plan with the support of South Belfast Partnership Board.

Cross sectoral working groups developed a series of thematic areas and recommended actions for Neighbourhood Renewal (over 130). These were reviewed at a Strategic Review Day in April 2006 before being sent out for consultation through local community forums and organisations to secure the general approval of the local community. The Partnership approved these actions in August 2006.

The six themes of the Action plan are:

- 1. Building Strong, Safe, Attractive and Sustainable Communities**
- 2. Helping people to move towards and into work as well as increasing their skills levels**
- 3. Improving Community Relations**
- 4. Raising Educational Attainment.**
- 5. Engaging Young People**
- 6. Improving Health and Well-Being**

### **The council's input**

A number of discreet actions in the plan identify Belfast City Council as either a lead or supporting partner in their delivery. As part of their consultation process South West Partnership have now asked the council to make an official response to the actions.

Detailed below are each of these council-related actions and a combined council response (established after discussions with the council's departments).

### **Belfast: The Masterplan 2004 to 2020**

In its masterplan for the city, published in 2004, the council carried out a careful analysis of the social, economic and physical needs of the city and proposed a framework for the revival of Belfast in the period up to 2020.

Within the plan five areas including south Belfast were identified for particular attention ensuring that neighbourhood renewal was integrated with the strategic citywide framework. In many ways this framework complements the South West Action plan and can offer a contribution to the plan's development. The plan has a number of specific recommendations for south Belfast:

'Neighbourhood renewal in the south city-sector should recognise existing areas of deprivation and provide for indigenous residential communities as well as the

transient/student population in terms of housing tenure and service provision, and should attempt to address the increasing pressures from the private rental sector and speculative residential development.'

'Action should focus on identifying land use and riverside opportunities that may provide social, economic and recreational development opportunities throughout the sector.'

'Such opportunities would benefit local residential neighbourhoods, enable and enhance community development, support the requirements of the major economic drivers (Queen's University, City Hospital and associated research activities) and contribute to the physical character and appearance of the sector.'

'In summary:

- Create sustainable residential communities
- Identify neighbourhood development opportunities
- Maximise riverside land use opportunities
- Develop University/ Hospital employment opportunities e.g. incubation space
- Maximise economic potential of surplus land holdings associated with Healthcare Trusts
- Improve connections with the centre city
- Sandy Row/ Donegall Pass internal gateways.'

'The actions are not intended to provide a panacea solution for all issues. Rather, they represent an overall strategic approach to improve each city-sector in the context of the wider city model. Future area and neighbourhood renewal programmes within each city-sector should consider the prioritised actions as defined.'

## Strategic Theme: Building strong, safe, attractive and sustainable communities

Desired outcome: 1B - There will be good quality infrastructure that will meet the needs of the community as well as those wishing to work or invest in the area.

(1) Action sought: **5 - A co-ordinated approach will be developed to the improvement of the public realm and provision of green and communal spaces in South West Belfast**

Lead: Community and Voluntary sector

Support: DOE, **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, Community and Voluntary sector

**Council response: As with other parts of the City there is a deficit of open space provision within the area. The Parks and Cemeteries Service is keen to work with South West to expand the opportunities presented by parks and other open space in the area in contributing to the wider renewal work beyond traditional projects associated with open space.**

**Through the Parks and Cemeteries Service the Council will work with local community groups to seek to improve, protect and promote the provision of open space in South West which is accessible to all. At all time the council must function within physical, human and financial constraints. Parks have an outreach worker available to facilitate such work.**

**There have been a number of successful projects led by the GVRT including the completion of a BMX track at Blythefield Park; the erection of pieces of public art and the opening of an allotment area. Discussions are on going into the establishing of a small nature trail.**

**There had been plans for a Multi-User Games Area (MUGA) at Nubia Street – which proved impractical due to limitations of space. It is now planned to be located at Olympia while a playground will be built at Nubia Street..**

Desired outcome: 1B - There will be good quality infrastructure that will meet the needs of the community as well as those wishing to work or invest in the area.

(2) Action sought: **6 - An adequate and appropriately designed car parking scheme should be developed in South West Belfast, and parking in non-designated areas should be strictly enforced.**

Lead: Road Service

Support: Roads Service, **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, Community and Voluntary sector

**Council response: Noted.**

**We are aware that there are BMAP proposals for a multi-story car park south east of city centre. Resident or controlled parking areas are also proposed in BMAP and legislation is changing to allow enforcement.**

Desired outcome: 1F - There is a clean and pleasant physical environment for everyone.

(3) Action sought: **1 - Dog Bins will be provided at locations throughout South West Belfast and "poop-a-scoop" bags will be sent to all registered dog owners in the area.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, Community and Voluntary Sector**

**Council response: The council would be keen to work with local groups on education and awareness programmes to promote responsible dog ownership. Past experience suggests that it can be difficult to get local agreement on the location of dog waste bins so further discussion would be required.**

Desired outcome: 1F - There is a clean and pleasant physical environment for everyone.

(4) Action sought: **4 - The location of recycling points in South West Belfast will be reviewed to make recycling more convenient for local residents.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council**

**Council response: The council currently manages the black box recycling system which covers the south west area and offers each household a weekly collection of seven different recyclable materials from their doorstep.**

**With the opening of Park Road Recycling Centre the whole area will be within two miles of a recycling centre either at Blackstaff Way or Park Road.**

**Glass banks were provided in Sandy Row but were removed at the community's request. Other suitable glass collection areas can be considered if volunteered by community groups or residents.**

**The council has a recycling education and awareness team available to work on recycling issues with local groups.**

Desired outcome: 1F - There is a clean and pleasant physical environment for everyone.

(5) Action sought: **5 - Local fast-food outlets will be encouraged to take part in a scheme where they provide and manage litter bins outside their premises in return for a larger trade waste bin at a reduced rate.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, Community and Voluntary Sector, Private sector**

**Council response: The Council's South Belfast Cleansing Forum holds quarterly meetings as a way for community groups and individuals to work with Cleansing Services and we encourage the Partnership to join the forum to help develop solutions. We**

**would be keen to discuss the practical implications of this proposal.**

**Cleansing Services now offer a commercial recycling service to businesses. Prices for such services are set at corporate level.**

Desired outcome: 1F - There is a clean and pleasant physical environment for everyone.

(6) Action sought: **6 - An Environmental Strategy for the South West Belfast Area will be developed with a particular focus on creating additional green spaces for community usage.**

Lead: Community and Voluntary Sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, Community and Voluntary Sector, NIHE, DoE

**Council response: The council recognises the importance of open space within the renewal process and has placed great emphasis on this in its Open Space strategy.**

**The only green space in the area is at Blythefield Park. The Council would welcome the opportunity to engage in any discussion which would explore the possibility of creating more green space. There are some examples of brownfield sites being restored to green space and this would be an interesting project.**

Desired outcome: 1G - The area will be safe and free from all types of violence and abuse.

(7) Action sought: **1 - A Community Safety Plan for the South West Belfast area.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: **Belfast City Council**, South West NP, NIHE, Community and Voluntary sector, PSNI, PBNI

**Council response: In 2004 the council helped establish the Belfast Community Safety Partnership and the council's Community Safety team have been engaged in numerous projects aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.**

**Our Community Safety team now have two wardens in place in the local area as part of the plan – based in the south and the west of the city. The team are willing to work with the partnership on local community safety issues.**

Desired outcome: 1G - The area will be safe and free from all types of violence and abuse.

(8) Action sought: **2 - A Neighbourhood Warden Scheme will be developed for the South West Belfast area.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council, NIHE**

Support: **Belfast City Council, NIHE**

**Council response: As above.**

**Our Community Safety team now have two wardens in place in the local area as part of the plan – based in the south and the west of the city. The team are willing to work with the partnership on local community safety issues.**

Desired outcome: 1H - Residents will have access to appropriate advice and information on a full range of issues.

(9) Action sought: **1 - Advice services (including specialist advice services for women and minority ethnic groups) in the area will be reviewed and developed to provide enhanced and more effective services to local people.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council, Community and Voluntary sector**

Support: **Belfast City Council, Community and Voluntary sector, Advice NI**

**Council response: The council offers a number of advice services covering a wide range of issues including consumer advice, cleansing, recycling, good relations, building control issues and a variety of environmental health matters. The majority of these have developed mechanisms for engagement and support at a local level.**

**Our Good Relations unit support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice in engagement issues with specific sections of society.**

**The council's new Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) is putting in place new policies and processes that will allow the council to operate in a much more effective and joined-up manner at neighbourhood level. It will create mechanisms to allow it to engage at a local level in a more joined-up fashion. This approach would also impact on local advice service provision.**

**Our Community Services have an important role to play in this regard and have facilities and staff in the south west. We are also currently devising a new council community strategy which we will be consulting on with the public in November of 2007. There are therefore likely to opportunities for our Community Services section to work with the NRP and other partners, statutory and community, on the local delivery of advice services.**

**Community Services currently provides funding to the South Belfast Advice Consortium. A percentage of this funding is targeted to the South West Belfast area for delivery of advice services.**

Desired outcome: 1J - Mechanisms exist to enable the Private, Public, Community and Voluntary sectors, as well as local residents, to work together.

(10) Action sought: **1 - A review of how the Neighbourhood Partnership connects with the range of stakeholders operating in the area, including local residents, will be undertaken and an appropriate model for engagement and communication developed.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: DSD, South West NP, Community & Voluntary Sector

**Council response: Noted.**

**The council's new Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) team are putting in place mechanisms that to allow the council to work with South West and other community and statutory partners in a much more strategic and joined-up fashion. SNAP will create a conduit between South West and the council's various services.**

**Our Community Services have an important role to play in this regard are also currently devising a new council community strategy which we will be consulting on with the public in November of 2007. There are therefore likely to opportunities for our Community Services section to work with the NRP and other stakeholders on engagement mechanisms.**

Desired outcome: 1J - Mechanisms exist to enable the Private, Public, Community and Voluntary sectors, as well as local residents, to work together.

(11) Action sought: **3 - An appropriate networking and information sharing group will be developed for the Greater Village area.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: DSD, South West NP, Community & Voluntary Sector

**Council response: Noted.**

**As with the previous response, the council's new Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) team are putting in place the mechanisms that will allow the council to work with South West and other community and statutory partners in a much more strategic and joined-up fashion. SNAP will create a conduit between the NRP and the council's various services.**

**The SNAP team are about to carry out a neighbourhood services audit that will map services provided by organisations at neighbourhood level and are willing to share findings with South West when they are published (March 2008).**

Desired outcome: 1K - The Community will be sustainable, cohesive, vibrant and believe in its potential.

(12) Action sought: **2 - Local organisations will be encouraged to come together to stage events that celebrate and promote their achievements.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: South West NP, **Belfast City Council**, DSD, Community & voluntary sector

**Council response: Noted.**

**The council is a keen advocate of the role of culture and the arts in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration and to wider city development. Its culture and arts team have a number of grant funding opportunities for local groups.**

**The unit has recently guided the creation of a new integrated cultural strategy for the city – a strategy that recognises the contribution culture can play at a local level. Our culture and arts team can work with the Partnership to explore the opportunities offered by the strategy.**

**The council's Parks Service, through our Open Space strategy, also play an important role of supporting community arts and are keen to see open space in the south west utilised in innovative ways.**

**Through our Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. The unit can also offer information on our Good Relations Grant Aid programme.**

Desired outcome: 1K - The Community will be sustainable, cohesive, vibrant and believe in its potential.

(13) Action sought: **3 - A book will be developed that celebrates the achievements and contributions of local people and organisations to their area. This will be linked into the new Welcome Pack (see 3D Action 1).**

Lead: South West NP

Support: South West NP, **Belfast City Council**, DSD, Community & voluntary sector

**Council response: Noted**

Desired outcome: 1K - The Community will be sustainable, cohesive, vibrant and believe in its potential.

(14) Action sought: **4 - Strategic support will be provided to new or emerging community based organisations in the area.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: South West NP, **Belfast City Council**, DSD, Community & voluntary sector

**Council response: Our Community Services section is currently being re-organised with a commitment to 'sustainable communities' as one of its likely core functions. There are therefore opportunities for Community Services to work with the NRP on relevant pilot projects that can address capacity building within the South West area.**

**The council's new Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) team are putting in place the mechanisms that will allow the council to work with South West and other community and statutory partners in a much more strategic and joined-up fashion. A SNAP neighbourhood services audit will map the linkages between service deliveries on the ground. The results of this work may contribute to achieving the action sought.**

**The council's SNAP team are available to meet with South West to explore areas of co-operation.**

## **Strategic Theme: Helping people to move towards and into work as well as increasing the skills levels**

Desired outcome: 2E - The area will be one in which social enterprise, self employment and small businesses can thrive.

(15) Action sought: **1 - Information gained through the South Belfast Business Needs analysis will be used to develop an effective approach to supporting business development in the area.**

Lead: SBPB, South West NP

Support: Invest NI, **Belfast City Council**, DSD, SBPB, NP

**Council response: The council's recent 'Business Needs' analysis of south Belfast has influenced the business development programmes under its Local Economic Development plan. The council is eager to share the information from the analysis and will work with the Partnership to ensure that the LED plan effectively supports business development in the area.**

## Strategic Theme: Improving community relations

Desired outcome: 3A - The Community will be one that is able and willing to engage within itself and other communities.

(16) Action sought: **1 - A Community Relations strategy for South West Belfast will be developed.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: **Belfast City Council**, OFMDFP, CRC, Community & Voluntary sector  
PSNI, South West NP

**Council response:** Through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice. The unit has a new Transforming Conflict transformation programme that is commissioning research and investigating best practice that could contribute to the formation of the south west strategy.

The unit can also offer information on our Good Relations Grant Aid programme and the local work and representation of the Good Relations Steering Panel.

Our Community Services section is currently being re-organised with a commitment to sustainable communities as one of its likely core functions. There are therefore opportunities for Community Services to work with the NRP to ensure that the emerging strategy aligns with the emerging community relations strategy.

Desired outcome: 3A - The Community will be one that is able and willing to engage within itself and other communities.

(17) Action sought: **2 - A Community Relations Training programme will be developed for staff within local community organizations and this will be informed by the mapping research undertaken by the South Belfast Roundtable on Racism.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, CRU/OFMDFM, CRC, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response:** Noted.

The Good Relations unit can offer advice, information and best practice on the development of such a programme. They can also offer information on our Good Relations Grant Aid programme and the local work of the Good Relations Steering Panel.

Desired outcome: 3A - The Community will be one that is able and willing to engage within itself and other communities.

(18) Action sought: **5 - A review will be undertaken of examples of anti-sectarian and anti-racism materials in Great Britain and elsewhere.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, OFMDFM, CRC, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: Through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice.**

**The unit has a new Transforming Conflict transformation programme that is commissioning research and investigating best practice that could contribute to the formation of the south west strategy.**

Desired outcome: 3B - Local people will be empowered to understand and respect others of different religious, political and cultural backgrounds.

(19) Action sought: **1 - A Community Charter will be developed for the South West Belfast Area. This will be developed in Partnership with Statutory Agencies, local organizations and local residents.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, CRC, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: As previously noted our Good Relations unit is very proactive in supporting local good relations initiatives and offers a wide range of support services including advice on best practice and funding. The unit is keen to work with the NRP on the development of this proposal.**

**Our Community Services section is currently being re-organised with a commitment to sustainable communities as one of its likely core functions. There are therefore opportunities for Community Services to work with the NRP and the other partners on the development of this action.**

(20) Desired outcome: **3B - Local people will be empowered to understand and respect others of different religious, political and cultural backgrounds.**

Action sought: 2 - A review of existing literature and materials in relation to Community Relations and will be undertaken and an approach developed to ensure that these are being used effectively by organizations currently working in the area (whether Statutory, Private or Community/Voluntary).

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council, CRC, CRU/OFMDFM, Community & Voluntary sector**

**Council response: Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice.**

**The unit has a new Transforming Conflict transformation programme that is commissioning research and investigating best practice that could contribute to the action.**

Desired outcome: 3B - Local people will be empowered to understand and respect others of different religious, political and cultural backgrounds.

(21) Action sought: **3 - The public realm will be enhanced to depict the cultural heritage of the South West Belfast area in a non-threatening manner, and making maximum usage of community input and involvement.**

Lead: NIHE  
Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council, DSD, NIHE, Arts Council, Community & Voluntary sector**

**Council response: Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice.**

**The council is a keen advocate of the role of culture and the arts in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration and to wider city development. Its culture and arts team have a number of grant funding opportunities for local groups.**

**The unit has recently guided the creation of a new integrated cultural strategy for the city – a strategy that recognises the contribution culture can play at a local level. Our culture and arts team can work with the Partnership to explore the opportunities offered by the strategy.**

**The council's Parks and Cemeteries Service, through our Open Space strategy, also play an important role of supporting community arts.**

Desired outcome: 3B - Local people will be empowered to understand and respect others of different religious, political and cultural backgrounds.

(22) Action sought: **4 - Local organisations will develop an approach to promoting work across the interface and creating links with organizations across the City, nationally and internationally.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, NIHE, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: Noted.**

**Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice.**

**The unit has a new Transforming Conflict transformation programme that is commissioning research and investigating best practice that could contribute to the action.**

**With the re-organisation of our Community Services section there are opportunities for Community Services to work with the NRP to ensure that the emerging strategy can offer support to interface work.**

Desired outcome: 3C - Community relations will be strengthened through the improved usage of shared public space throughout the area.

(22) Action sought: **1 - Local community organizations will work together to identify zones that can be developed into "safe" areas that encourage more interaction between local residents.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: The Council hopes to submit an application for support from Peace III for an extension of its 'Renewing the Routes' physical regeneration scheme to focus on shared spaces within interface areas.**

**Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership.**

**There are also opportunities here for involvement of our Parks team who have been promoting the opportunities presented by parks and other open space in the area to contribute to the wider renewal work beyond the traditional projects associated with open space**

Desired outcome: 3C - Community relations will be strengthened through the improved usage of shared public space throughout the area.

(23) Action sought: **2 - Sites will be developed as locations for various projects, dealing with a range of activities and services, that are open to all participants and enhance the community.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: Noted.**

**Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice.**

**With the re-organisation of our Community Services section there are therefore opportunities for Community Services to work with the NRP to ensure that the emerging strategy – which aims to support community capacity - can offer support to this work.**

**A Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) audit, which will commence in late Autumn 2007, will map the linkages between service deliveries on the ground. The results of this work could contribute to the action.**

Desired outcome: 3D - Racism will be targeted throughout the area to encourage fair and equal treatment of all community members.

(24) Action sought: **1 - A welcome pack will be developed for new residents to the area. This will be informed by a history project examining local cultures and traditions in the South West Belfast area.**

Lead: NIHE

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, NIHE, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage on opportunities in developing good practice.**

Desired outcome: 3D - Racism will be targeted throughout the area to encourage fair and equal treatment of all community members.

(25) Action sought: **2 - The work of the Neighbourhood Partnership should link in with the South Belfast Round Table on Racism Action Plan.**

Lead: South West NP

Support: DSD, **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes on racism issues good relations and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership.**

Desired outcome: 3D - Racism will be targeted throughout the area to encourage fair and equal treatment of all community members.

(26) Action sought: **4 - A series of events that celebrate, and promote awareness of, different, as well as traditional local cultures will be organised.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, NIHE, CRC, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: Again, as noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership.**

**The council is a keen advocate of the role of culture and the arts in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration and to wider city development. Its culture and arts team have a number of grant funding opportunities for local groups.**

**The unit has recently guided the creation of a new integrated cultural strategy for the city – a strategy that recognises the contribution culture can play at a local level. Our culture and arts team can work with the Partnership to explore the opportunities offered by the strategy.**

**Desired outcome:** 3D - Racism will be targeted throughout the area to encourage fair and equal treatment of all community members.

(27) Action sought: **1 - A welcome pack will be developed for new residents to the area. This will be informed by a history project examining local cultures and traditions in the South West Belfast area.**

Lead: NIHE

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, NIHE, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: As noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership.**

Desired outcome: 3D - Racism will be targeted throughout the area to encourage fair and equal treatment of all community members.

(28) Action sought: **5 - Private Landlords and Employment agencies will be encouraged to buy into the regeneration process, and to make their clients more aware about the area in which they live.**

Lead: NIHE

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, NIHE, Private sector

**Council response: As noted previously, through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership.**

Desired outcome: 3E - Improve community relations through the promotion of sporting activities and the South Belfast Sports Forum.

(29) Action sought: **2 - Options for promoting usage of the multi-sports facility at Blythefield will be explored.**

Lead: Community & Voluntary sector

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, Sports Council, Community & Voluntary sector

**Council response: The council is aware of the community proposals for a multi-use games area (MUGA) in Blythefield. In order for this to move forward the council will need to enter a facilities management agreement. A sport activity plan would need to be developed as part of such an agreement. The council would be happy to engage with the Partnership on these MUGA options.**

## **Strategic Theme: Engaging young people, for example, through art, sports and physical activity**

Desired outcome: 5G - Actions will be undertaken to address gaps in facilities for sports and physical activities.

(30) Action sought: **2 - Olympia Leisure Centre will examine how it can better promote and encourage usage of the centre by Young People.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, Community & Voluntary Sector**

**Council response: The council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to examine this action.**

**There is also a role for the Young Persons Co-ordinator based within our Community Services section to work with the Partnership in exploring with young people the options.**

Desired outcome: 5I - Every child will be given the opportunity to play in a safe, welcoming and child centred environment.

(31) Action sought: **1 - A recreation and play area that caters for all ages will be developed at a suitable site within the Greater Village area.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, NIHE, Community & Voluntary Sector**

**Council response:**

**The council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove potential barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to examine this action.**

**There is also a role for the Young Persons Co-ordinator based within our Community Services section to work with the Partnership in exploring with young people the options.**

**There is also potential of linkages with our Parks team in jointly exploring the role of open space in the area in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration.**

## Strategic Theme: Improving health and well-being

Desired outcome: 6F - Local people will have ease of access to an affordable range of exercise and leisure facilities and will be actively encouraged to participate.

(32) Action sought: **2 - Leisure Centres will provide crèche facilities to enable parents to take advantage of their services.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council**

**Council response: The council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to examine this action and the resource implications.**

Desired outcome: 6F - Local people will have ease of access to an affordable range of exercise and leisure facilities and will be actively encouraged to participate.

(33) Action sought: **4 - Key stakeholders will develop an approach to encourage local older people to take advantage of the facilities and activities on offer at Olympia.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, Community & Voluntary sector**

**Council response: Again, the council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access, for example, our Leisure centres currently offer a discount scheme for older people and works with Age Concern NI to deliver targeted programmes for older people.**

**Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to encourage greater participation and access.**

Desired outcome: 6F - Local people will have ease of access to an affordable range of exercise and leisure facilities and will be actively encouraged to participate.

(34) Action sought: **6 - A recreation and play area that caters for all ages will be developed at a suitable site within the Greater Village area.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, DSD, NIHE**

**Council response: The council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove potential barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to examine this action and its resource implications.**

**There is also potential of linkages with our Parks team in jointly exploring the role of open space in the area in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration.**

Desired outcome: 6F - Local people will have ease of access to an affordable range of exercise and leisure facilities and will be actively encouraged to participate.

(35) Action sought: **7 - Benches will be provided at suitable locations in the South West Belfast area.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council**

**Council response: Our Parks team are keen to work with the Partnership to jointly exploring the role of open space in the area and creative approaches for maximising their use by local people. We would be happy to look at the provision of seating within council-owned land. However, where we don't own the land, it may be appropriate to approach the relevant body (eg Roads Service).**

Desired outcome: 6F - Local people will have ease of access to an affordable range of exercise and leisure facilities and will be actively encouraged to participate.

(36) Action sought: **8 - The healthy mile walk will be permanently marked in both the Greater Village and Sandy Row.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council, BHSST, Community & Voluntary sector**

**Council response: Our Parks team are keen to work with the Partnership to jointly explore the role of open space in the area and creative approaches for maximising their use by local people. We would be happy to work with organisations such as the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke (and their Highway to Health initiative) to agree a way forward.**

Desired outcome: 6F - Local people will have ease of access to an affordable range of exercise and leisure facilities and will be actively encouraged to participate.

(37) Action sought: **9 - Relevant stakeholders will examine ways of providing lower fares at Olympia Leisure Centre.**

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: **Belfast City Council**

**Council response: The council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove potential barriers to access. Our current pricing structure offers affordable access with free use for the over 60s and a concessionary rate of £1 per session for Belfast residents in receipt of Means Tested Benefits. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to examine this action alongside our transport partners in the city.**

### Appendix 1: Boundary of South West Neighbourhood Renewal Area

