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## COMBINED PACK

### BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

#### SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 2nd October, 2017, immediately following the special meeting, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 12)
5. Official Announcements
6. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 13 - 86)
7. People and Communities Committee (Pages 87 - 106)
8. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 107 - 142)
9. Licensing Committee (Pages 143 - 148)
10. Planning Committee (Pages 149 - 164)
11. Notices of Motion
  - a) Citizens' Basic Income Scheme

Proposed by Councillor McVeigh,  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

“This Council recognises the devastating impact that unemployment and benefit cuts can have upon citizens, families and communities.

The Council will explore, as part of a wider employability initiative and with the help of the Executive, the implementation of a Citizens' Basic Income (CBI) scheme. In order to inform this process, the Council will undertake a feasibility study into how it might support a pilot study concentrated within our most deprived communities.

The CBI initiative would mean, for those identified as part of the initiative, the replacement of benefits and pensions with an unconditional flat rate payment. Citizens would then be able to work and earn additional income on top of the basic payment. Such a scheme has the potential to help eradicate poverty and homelessness in the City.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the  
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)**

b) Traffic in the City Centre

Proposed by Councillor Dudgeon,  
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

“This Council has grave concerns about traffic congestion in the City centre, particularly at the back of City Hall, resulting from recent new arrangements. A major source of the problem at peak times is the prohibition on vehicles (except buses and emergency services) going from Donegall Square East into Adelaide Street from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

This means that cars must either go into Chichester Street, turn right into Montgomery Street, then right into May Street and left into Adelaide Street, or use Donegall Square East, then Donegall Square South and Bedford Street to go in an eastern or south-eastern direction. There is no other reasonable way for vehicles to go from the west or south west of the City to the south and east, despite the description of the route as a rat run.

Cars accessing Adelaide Street between June, 2015 and August, 2016 were caught by the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) camera in Donegall Square East on 18,000 occasions, resulting in £1 million of fines. This proves the difficulty faced by drivers and especially visitors to the City.

The Council, therefore, calls on Dfi, working in conjunction with Translink, to end the prohibition on traffic entering Adelaide Street from Donegall Square East. This would also enable the removal of the large and unsightly electronic warning sign in Donegall Square East and free up the traffic island on which it sits.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the  
City Growth and Regeneration Committee)**

c) Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme

Proposed by Councillor Mullan,  
Seconded by Councillor Boyle,

“This Council opposes the proposed ending of the Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme by the Department of Education, from 31st October 2017, and expresses deep concern at the impact which the potential loss of this award winning cross community programme will have for primary school pupils, primary schools and the sporting coaches involved.

The Council agrees to write to and seek an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education to highlight this concern.”

**(To be debated by the Council)**

d) Drugs Related Deaths and Suicides

Proposed by Councillor McCusker,  
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

“This Council notes with growing concern the rise of drug related deaths and suicides in the city and across Northern Ireland and calls on local and central government to make tackling this epidemic a priority.

The council agrees to seek an urgent cross party meeting with the Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Agency, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the community and voluntary sector working on the front line dealing with this growing problem to agree a co-ordinated action plan.”

**(To be debated by the Council)**

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Wylie".

Chief Executive

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## **Council**

### MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 4th September, 2017  
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); the High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McCabe, McConville, McVeigh, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

#### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen Browne and R. Patterson and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, McAteer, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne and Newton.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Minutes of the Council**

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister),  
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the special meetings of the Council of 1st July and 2nd August and the monthly meeting of the Council of 3rd July, omitting the decision of the special meeting of 2nd August, under the heading "Notice of Motion – Removal of Bonfire Materials", which, in accordance with Standing Order 47 and Section 41(1) (b) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 has been called in, be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 4th September, 2017**

**Request to Film Proceedings**

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from a broadcasting company to film the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

**Official Announcements**

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, expressed condolences to Alderman McKee on the recent death of his grandmother.

The High Sheriff, Alderman Haire, referred to the recent announcement that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were expecting their third child and, on behalf of the Council, congratulated the Royal Couple.

At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Council extended its best wishes to the Northern Ireland football team who would, later in the evening, be hosting the Czech Republic in a World Cup qualifying game.

**Change of Membership on Outside Bodies**

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the SDLP of the following changes to membership on Outside Bodies:

- Councillor Heading to replace Alderman Convery on the National Association of Councillors;
- Councillor McCusker to replace Alderman Convery on the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership;
- Councillor McCusker to replace Councillor Boyle on the Active Belfast Limited Board;
- Councillor Lyons to replace Councillor Boyle on the South Belfast Partnership Board, the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership; and
- Councillor Lyons to replace Councillor Mullan on the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust and the Lyric Theatre Education Advisory Panel.

The Council approved the changes.

**Request to Address the Council**

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. E. Duffy from the organisation Birth Mothers and their Children for Justice NI to address the Council in the context of the motion which Councillor O'Neill would be proposing later in the meeting on Mother and Baby Homes.

**Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 4th September, 2017**

The Council agreed to accede to the request and Mr. Duffy was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Duffy outlined the extent of the human rights violations which had been experienced by those women and their babies who had, over the years, been detained across Ireland in institutions such as mother and baby homes and hostels. He highlighted the role which Birth Mothers and their Children for Justice NI played in supporting the victims and survivors and urged the Council to support its call for a Public Inquiry or similar investigation to be initiated in Northern Ireland into former mother and baby institutions.

Mr. Duffy was thanked by the Lord Mayor and he left the meeting.

The Council noted the information which had been provided and that it would have an opportunity to discuss the issue later in the meeting.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hargey,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 18th August be approved and adopted.

**Declarations of Interest**

The Council agreed that the minute of the meeting of 18th August under the heading "Declarations of Interest" be amended to reflect that Councillor Howard, rather than Councillor Graham, had declared that she was a member of the Belfast Strategic Partnership Lifelong Learning Group.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 18th August were approved and adopted.

**People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Alderman Sandford,  
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 2nd and 8th August be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 4th September, 2017**

**Requests for Items to be taken  
back for Further Consideration**

**Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre –  
Proposed Possession**

At the request of Alderman McKee, the Chairperson, with the consent of the Council, agreed that the minute of the meeting of 8th August under the heading “Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Proposed Possession” be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

**East Belfast Football Club - Request to Install  
Temporary Hospitality Room on Council Land**

Councillor Dorrian requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute of the meeting of 8th August under the heading “East Belfast Football Club – Request to Install Temporary Hospitality Room on Council Land” being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson agreed to accede to the request, however, it was declined by the Council.

**Amendment**

**East Belfast Football Club - Request to Install  
Temporary Hospitality Room on Council Land**

Moved by Councillor Dorrian,  
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 8th August, under the heading “East Belfast Football Club – Request to Install Temporary Hospitality Room on Council Land”, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

On a vote by show of hands, nineteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-one against and it was declared lost.

**Acknowledgement of Thanks –  
Donation for the Purchase of Defibrillators**

At the request of the Chairperson, the Council agreed that the Lord Mayor forward to the family of the late Mr. Mark Murphy a letter thanking them for their generous donation, which would allow defibrillators to be placed in additional public accessed parks and playing fields.



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**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing omission and addition, the minutes of the meetings of the People and Communities Committee of 2nd and 8th August were approved and adopted.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,  
Seconded by Councillor Dudgeon and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 9th and 23rd August be approved and adopted.

**Licensing Committee**

Moved by Alderman Spence,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 16th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Lyons,  
Seconded by Councillor Armitage and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 15th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.  
Shareholders' Committee**

Moved by Councillor Walsh,  
Seconded by Councillor Johnston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 1st August be approved and adopted.

**Notices of Motion**

**Mother and Baby Homes**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O'Neill proposed:

"This Council recognises the citizens of Belfast's commitment to human rights and will support Amnesty International's call on The Northern Ireland Executive to set-up a human rights-compliant public inquiry into allegations

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of forced labour, arbitrary detention, ill treatment and the illegal adoption of babies in former mother and baby homes in Belfast and across the province."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McVeigh.

After discussion, the motion was put to the Council and passed.

**Grass Cutting on Carriageways**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Rodgers proposed:

"This Council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure, Transport Northern Ireland, to redirect resources towards grass cutting of verges, central reservations and roundabouts on our carriageways.

The present two cuts between April and September are not sufficient, bearing in mind that only a few years ago we had five and prior to that eight.

The citizens of Belfast, along with a large number of visitors, are complaining bitterly at how unsightly the capital city of Northern Ireland has become and, therefore, it is important that this important issue is acted upon as quickly as possible."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Johnston.

At the request of Councillor Long, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to provide for the deletion of the first two paragraphs, the insertion of the words "of grass cutting" after the words "important issue" in the third paragraph and the insertion of the following wording at the end of the motion: "The Council requests officers to draw up options to see what measures the Council can introduce to mitigate the reduction in grass cutting and bring a report to the appropriate Committee in November to ensure that action is taken before the next grass cutting season.

The proposer agreed, at the request of Councillor Bell, to amend his motion further to provide for the deletion of the word 'therefore' in the third paragraph and the inclusion immediately thereafter of the following wording "that, importantly, there are serious health and safety concerns in many areas where 'line of sight' is impaired for both motorists and pedestrians."

Accordingly, the Council agreed to pass the following motion, as amended, which had been proposed by Alderman Rodgers and seconded by Councillor Johnston:

"The citizens of Belfast, along with a large number of visitors, are complaining bitterly at how unsightly the capital city of Northern Ireland has become and that, importantly, there are serious health and safety concerns in many areas where 'line of sight' is impaired for both motorists and pedestrians. It is important that this important issue of grass cutting is acted upon as quickly as possible.

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The Council requests officers to draw up options to see what measures the Council can introduce to mitigate the reduction in grass cutting and bring a report to the appropriate Committee in November to ensure that action is taken before the next grass cutting season.”

**Party Leaders’ Forum**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Long proposed:

“This Council calls upon the Chief Executive to submit a report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on how to ensure openness and transparency with regard to decisions taken by the Party Leaders’ Forum.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O’Neill.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Invitations to or from the President  
of the United States of America**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Heading proposed:

“This Council reiterates that it is committed to treating everyone fairly, with equality and respect, and through doing so help our City in its transition from a period of division caused by conflict to a City that celebrates diversity and pluralism.

The Council notes the recent comments made by President Trump regarding the tragic events in Charlottesville, Virginia, their lack of clarity and his failure to condemn racist organisations such as the Ku Klux Klan and Neo Nazi gangs. While recognising with gratitude the support provided by previous American administrations, this Council believes our core values of equality and respect to be at odds with the actions and statements of the current President of the United States of America.

As such, the Council agrees to write, through its Lord Mayor and First Citizen, to the British Prime Minister to request that any invitation, present or future, to the President of the United States, Donald Trump, to visit Britain or Northern Ireland is withdrawn or excluded from consideration.

The Council is also aware that an invitation is traditionally extended to the Lord Mayor to attend the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations at the White House, Washington DC, each year and requests that, in the event of this invitation being extended again in 2018 and in subsequent years, the Lord Mayor, subsequent Lord Mayors, or any other representatives of the Council, consider declining such an invitation to visit the White House or any state event at which the current US President is anticipated to be in attendance.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

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**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the motion, as proposed by Councillor Heading, be amended to provide for the replacement of the words "notes" and "recent" with the words "condemns" and "inconsistent" in the first sentence of the second paragraph, the insertion of the word "initial" before the word "failure" in that sentence and the deletion of the second sentence of the second paragraph and of paragraphs three and four.

At the request of Alderman Kingston, Councillor Long agreed to alter his amendment to include the following wording at the end of the final paragraph: "This Council recognises and strongly values the special relationship between the United States of America and Northern Ireland. We cherish the close historic, ancestral, cultural, economic, educational and political ties that we share with the United States."

On a recorded vote, thirty-eight Members voted for the amendment which had been proposed by Councillor Long, as revised and as set out below, and eleven against and it was declared carried:

"This Council reiterates that it is committed to treating everyone fairly, with equality and respect, and through doing so help our City in its transition from a period of division caused by conflict to a City that celebrates diversity and pluralism.

The Council condemns the inconsistent comments made by President Trump regarding the tragic events in Charlottesville, Virginia, their lack of clarity and his initial failure to condemn racist organisations such as the Ku Klux Klan and Neo Nazi gangs.

"This Council recognises and strongly values the special relationship between the United States of America and Northern Ireland. We cherish the close historic, ancestral, cultural, economic, educational and political ties that we share with the United States."

<b><u>For 38</u></b>	<b><u>Against 11</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Kyle, Long,	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Attwood, Bunting, Collins, Dudgeon, Heading, Johnston, Lyons and Walsh.

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Magee, Magennis, McCabe, McConville, McVeigh, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Reynolds.	
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The motion, as amended, was thereupon put to the meeting as the substantive motion and passed.

**Cuts to Health Budgets**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Attwood proposed:

"This Council notes that Health and Social Care Trusts have been tasked by the Department of Health to find £70 million of savings in 2017/2018 financial year and that the Belfast Trust will have to impose cuts of £26.3 million.

The Council expresses its deep concern at the effect which these proposed cuts will have on domiciliary care, elective care services, nursing and residential homes, the deferral of drug treatments and cuts in agency staff. The Council believes that these cuts will have a devastating impact on the sick, elderly and most vulnerable sections of our community in Belfast.

The Council strenuously opposes these cuts and agrees to write to and seek urgent meetings with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Permanent Secretary in the Department of Health."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

After discussion, the motion was put to the Council and passed.

**Opposition to Britain First Organisation**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Collins proposed:

"This Council notes recent attempts by Britain First to organise in Belfast. The Council condemns Britain First for its far-right ideas and is opposed to its attempts to organise here. The city of Belfast has a proud history of anti-racism and anti-fascism. Unfortunately, Belfast has seen a worrying rise of racist incidents in recent years. The establishment of far-right organisations such as Britain First will embolden those who espouse such racism. The Council pledges to stand by its minority communities and against those who wish to promote division and hatred."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

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**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,  
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the motion, as proposed by Councillor Collins, be amended to provide for the deletion of everything but the last sentence of the motion and, accordingly, to read as follows: "This Council pledges to stand by its minority communities and against those who wish to promote division and hatred."

**Councillor Bunting**

At this point in the meeting, it was

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That, in accordance with Standing Order 31(a), Councillor Bunting be not further heard.

On a vote by show of hands twenty-seven Members voted for the proposal and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

On a recorded vote, fourteen Members voted for the amendment, as proposed by Councillor Dudgeon, and twenty-seven against and it was declared lost.

<b><u>For 14</u></b>	<b><u>Against 27</u></b>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Johnston and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Howard, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McConville, McVeigh, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.

The original motion, as proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading, was thereupon put to the meeting when, on a recorded vote, forty-one Members voted for and one against and it was declared carried.

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<b><u>For 41</u></b>	<b><u>Against 1</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Johnston, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McConville, McVeigh, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.	Councillor Bunting.

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

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## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 22nd September, 2017

### MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);  
Aldermen Convery and Rodgers;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Craig,  
Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McCabe, McDonough-Brown,  
McVeigh, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also Attended: Alderman Kingston.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Alderman Spence.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 18th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th September.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Change of Date of Meeting in November**

The Committee agreed to change the date of its next scheduled meeting from 17th till 24th November in order to accommodate the rate setting process for 2018-19.

#### **Briefing Session – Commission for Victims and Survivors**

The Committee noted that, at the request of the organisation, this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

**Restricted Items**

**The Information contained in the following four reports 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 of these items as, due to the nature of the items, 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.

**Changes to Current Catering Arrangements**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this matter to enable further information to be provided.

**City Centre Investment Fund**

The Committee noted a report which provided an update on the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF), including progress to date, applications received and the planned next steps.

**Efficiency Programme 2018-19 – 2019-20**

The Committee noted the update on the efficiency programme and that further updates on the work streams and progress towards the efficiency targets would be provided as part of the rate setting reporting timetable; and agreed to the establishment of a Commercial Manager post to support the commercialisation of Council services and increased income opportunities to be funding from the invest to save budget at no additional cost to the ratepayer.

**The Mac (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Update**

(Mr. Donal Durkan, Director of Development, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered a report in relation to a request for funding from The Metropolitan Arts Centre.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request from the Mac to provide funding of £40,000, to be funded initially through general reserves, on the basis that meetings would be set in place between Belfast City Council politicians and representatives from the Mac, as well as the Arts Council and the Department for Communities, to ensure sustainability and enhance cultural and arts offering to local and international audiences.

It was agreed also that any further consideration for funding requests would only be considered in the context of the business case which had been presented to the Arts Council NI and the Department for Communities.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion**

**Party Leaders' Forum**

The Committee deferred consideration of the matter to enable it to be considered at the Party Group briefings and subsequently the Party Leaders' Forum.

**Notice of Motion – Donations to Political Parties**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, had passed the following motion on Donations to Political Parties, which had been proposed by Councillor Nichol and seconded by Councillor Milne:

*“This Council notes the motions passed in March, 2016 and January, 2017, recognising the importance which the citizens of Belfast place on being able to trust their elected representatives to work for the common good; further recognises the corrupting influence which money can have on political decision-making; considers it unacceptable that donations to political parties continue to remain secret in Northern Ireland; reiterates its calls on the Secretary of State to immediately lift the exemption to reveal all declared donations from £500 upwards to political parties since January 2014; and calls on all political parties to voluntarily publish donations until this time.”*

It was reported that a response had now been received, on behalf of the Secretary of State, from Minister Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Minister Smith explained that the Secretary of State had, in January 2017, written to the leaders of the Political Parties in Northern Ireland to seek their views on whether to move to full transparency for political donations and loans and, if so, to suggest a date from which such transparency should take effect. All of those parties which had responded had expressed the view that full transparency should be introduced, only one of which had been proposed that it be implemented retrospectively.

She had pointed out that, in light of those responses and the widespread support amongst the people of Northern Ireland around the importance of transparency to the wider political process, the Secretary of State had, on 3rd July, stated his intention to bring secondary legislation before Parliament shortly, with a view to having it passed in the autumn. That would provide for the publication of all donations and loans received by Political Parties in Northern Ireland on or after 1st July, 2017. On the basis of the representations which he had received from the parties, the Secretary of State did not consider it appropriate to impose retrospective regulations on those who had donated in accordance with the rules set out at that time.

The Minister went on to point out that the threshold for reporting and publishing donations and loans would be the same as in the rest of the United Kingdom, that is, over

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£7,500 or £1,500 for local accounting units. She concluded by stating that, whilst there were no plans to change those thresholds, the Secretary of State was aware that Political Parties in Northern Ireland had been considering the possibility of reducing them and the Northern Ireland Office would be interested in obtaining their views in that regard.

Noted.

**Notice of Motion – Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, had passed the following motion on the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor McReynolds:

*“This Council notes that the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Child Abuse found that children’s homes run by some churches, charities and state institutions in Belfast and elsewhere in Northern Ireland were the scene of widespread abuse and mistreatment of young residents.*

*The Council notes that Sir Anthony Hart, Chair of the Inquiry, recommended compensation, a memorial and a public apology to abuse survivors.*

*The Council expresses deep concern that, due to the failure to form a power-sharing government, there has been no progress into implementing the Hart HIA Redress Findings.*

*The Council agrees to write to political party leaders in Northern Ireland to ensure that, if an Executive is formed, the Inquiry’s recommendations are implemented in full as a matter of urgency.”*

It was reported that a response had now been received, on behalf of the Secretary of State, from Minister Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Minister Smith pointed out that the Secretary of State had met recently with historical institutional child abuse victims from a number of organisations in Northern Ireland, during which he had reiterated the Government’s condemnation of any form of abuse of children and its abhorrence of any tolerance by people in positions of responsibility of such activity by others.

She stated that the Government had always believed that the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, which had been announced in 2012 by the then First Minister and Deputy First Minister, was the most effective way of establishing the truth and that both the Government and agencies had provided the fullest possible level of co-operation. She highlighted the fact that Sir Anthony Hart, who had led the Inquiry, stated clearly within his closing statement that the report, its findings and recommendations were now a matter for the new Assembly and Executive to consider and urged them to implement his recommendations as a matter of priority. Minister Smith concluded by recognising fully the frustration felt by victims and survivors at the current lack of progress due to the

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suspension of the devolved administration and added that the Secretary of State continued to urge the Political Parties to restore the Executive to allow a response to Sir Anthony Hart's report to be provided at the earliest opportunity, including on his recommendations for redress and support for victims and survivors of child abuse.

In addition to the response from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Council had, to date, received responses from two leaders of Political Parties, namely, Mr. Steven Agnew MLA and Mr. Robin Swann MLA of the Green Party and the Ulster Unionist Party respectively.

Mr Agnew, within his response, recognised the urgency of the issue and maintained that the implementation of the report arising from the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry should not be delayed as a result of a failure to form an Executive and Assembly. He added that he had written to the Secretary of State to urge him to implement the report immediately and requested those Political Parties on the Council to urge their leadership to do the same.

Mr. Swann confirmed that he had written also to the Secretary of State on this issue and that he was committed to maintaining his Party's longstanding position of supporting the victims of historical institutional abuse. He too regretted the fact that the absence of an Executive and Assembly had delayed the process and supported the Council's call for the Inquiry's recommendations to be implemented as soon as the political institutions were restored. However, he pointed out that the Panel of Experts on Redress believed that the recommendations relating to compensation fell short of survivors' needs and had identified flaws and had suggested improvements. Mr. Swann confirmed that, in the absence of the Executive and Assembly, he had called upon the Government to examine both the recommendations of Sir Anthony Hart and the Panel of Experts on Redress and options for bridging the gap between them. He concluded by stating that he was working currently with other Political Parties to identify common ground and help deliver justice for the victims Historical Institutional Abuse.

The Committee noted the responses which had been received.

**Strategic Issues/Belfast Agenda**

**Belfast Agenda – Publication and Next Steps**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 This report provides Members with the proposed final draft of the Belfast Agenda and includes a summary of the changes made following the public consultation held earlier this year. This report also proposes a launch of the final Belfast Agenda and briefly updates Members on the next steps in the implementation the Belfast Agenda.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- approve the final Belfast Agenda document and note the summary of changes from the draft;
- agree a launch of the Belfast Agenda in October; and
- agree the next steps in taking forward the implementation of the Belfast Agenda including 4 workshops proposed for the late Autumn.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Background**

**3.1 As Members will be aware the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, Part 10, placed a statutory duty on councils in relation to community planning. The legislation states that as lead partner, the council (once consensus has been reached with community planning partners), must publish a community plan that sets out long term objectives for improving economic, social and environment wellbeing of its district, together with the actions and functions to be delivered to achieve these objectives.**

**3.2 Following significant engagement with Members, partners and the general public (through The Belfast Conversation) Members agreed in November 2016 to a draft Belfast Agenda to go to public consultation in December 2016.**

**3.3 The public consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda, Belfast's Community Plan, was undertaken over an 18 week period, from 15th December 2016 to 20th April 2017. During the consultation period, a range of engagement activities were undertaken including public briefings, stakeholder workshops and meetings, an online questionnaire and social media activity.**

**Consultation feedback**

**3.4 Nearly 300 responses from a broad range of individuals, organisations and stakeholders were received to the consultation. Some of these responses represented the findings of workshops that stakeholders had undertaken with their own groups.**

**3.5 Overall the response to the consultation indicated a significant endorsement for the Belfast Agenda – there was**

general support (over 80% of respondents) for the long term vision, outcomes and ambitions, and for the 4 year (to 2021) priorities of Growing the Economy, Living Here, City Development and Working and Learning.

- 3.6 Analysis of the feedback has been ongoing over recent months and findings have been discussed with community planning partners (including Party Group Leaders).
- 3.7 Some respondents suggested improvements to the plan or highlighted concerns, identifying themes that could be strengthened (for example, culture and arts, housing, good relations, environment, health, lifelong learning, among others) and these have been considered in producing the final version. Additionally, since the draft plan was published, more recent data and evidence has become available and this has also been considered, particularly in relation to the 'Belfast Now' section, the population indicators and Stretch goals. Greater alignment to the Local Development Plan was raised and this has been strengthened within the Belfast Agenda to reflect the LDP's role as the spatial representation of the community plan. Key changes to the draft Belfast Agenda and the basis upon which these were made are outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 3.8 Many organisations, groups and individuals, also provided feedback on how 'work streams', programmes or projects should be taken forward in the delivery of the Belfast Agenda. Some highlighted how certain groups or stakeholders might contribute to the implementation. Whilst this feedback did not specifically relate to the content of the document, it is being analysed further and collated to enable it to be considered and inform and shape the on-going development of work programmes and action plans within the Belfast Agenda priorities.
- 3.9 The Community Planning Partners Forum discussed a revised draft of the Belfast Agenda at their recent meeting on 11th August 2017. Partners were asked to agree the final draft and statutory Community Planning Partners were asked to provide written endorsement from their organisations. The main elements of the Belfast Agenda and structure of the document remain largely constant in the revision. The content of the document includes the following:
- Separate forewords from Party Group Leaders and Statutory Community Planning partners, demonstrating the partnership commitment to the city agenda.

- The Belfast opportunity – a brief overview of Belfast now and the opportunity afforded by the Belfast Agenda.
- Impact summary – this new section provides a Belfast Agenda ‘plan on a page’ highlighting the key features and ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.
- A vision for 2035 – An aspirational description of what we want Belfast to be in 2035.
- A set of outcomes for 2035 – these five statements describe the detail of the vision - specifically what we want for the people who live and work in Belfast.
- Population indicators - measures that will give a strong sense of the city’s ‘wellbeing’ over the coming years and provide Members and partners with a powerful tool to measure the positive impact of the Belfast Agenda.
- Our ambitions – four goals to be the focus to drive growth and reduce inequalities over the long term in Belfast.
- Belfast Now – key statistics giving a current view of the city
- Inclusive growth and medium term priorities (2017-21) – outlining the overarching aspiration of inclusive growth and the four priority areas being taken forward immediately: Growing the economy; Living here; City Development; and Working and Learning. Each of these priority areas includes:
  - o Stretch goals: challenging targets to help quantify what the city needs to achieve for each priority over the next four years.
  - o Work-streams: These are the ‘game-changing’ programmes of work to be delivered by city partners over the next four years.

3.10 Members are asked to consider and approve the revised Belfast Agenda.

#### Belfast Agenda Launch

3.11 The legislation requires the council to formally publish the community plan once consensus has been reached with partners. It is proposed, therefore, that the formal launch of the Belfast Agenda takes place once the revised Belfast Agenda has been endorsed by all partners (statutory partners have been asked to endorse the Belfast agenda by mid-Sept and it is hoped the council will ratify in October).



- 3.12** It is proposed that a press launch with Party Group Leaders, Chair of SP&R and key community planning partners be arranged in City Hall in October.
- 3.13** In addition to the revised Belfast Agenda the following supporting documents are also being produced and will be published at the same time:
- A technical document defining all the measures referred to in the Belfast Agenda
  - Equality Impact Assessment – revised following the consultation;
  - Strategic Environmental Assessment – revised following the consultation
  - Habitats Regulations Assessment
  - Rural Needs Assessment
  - Consultation feedback summary report
- 3.14** Members are asked to consider and agree a press launch of the final Belfast Agenda in October, involving the Party Group Leaders, Chair of SP&R Committee, the Chief Executive and other statutory partners.

**Next Steps – Towards delivery**

- 3.15** As a final Belfast Agenda document is agreed and published over the coming weeks, it is important that focus now turns to delivery. As Members recognise the Belfast Agenda is a strategic framework; its priorities contain a range of workstreams, programmes and projects, some of which are already underway or in planning phases, and others have yet to begin; some with existing partnership arrangements, others may require new arrangements. As a result arrangements for delivery, monitoring and oversight of each of the Belfast Agenda priorities will need to be tailored to be effective.
- 3.16** In moving forward, it is proposed that a series of workshops is planned for this autumn, convening initially around each of the 4 Belfast Agenda priorities, to consider how collaboration in action planning and delivery can best be taken forward across a range of city partners. These will provide opportunities for wider engagement as part of this process, including existing partnerships and the community and voluntary sector. It is also anticipated that this initial work will build foundations for further consideration of governance requirements for delivery and oversight of the Belfast Agenda.

**3.17 Financial & Resource Implications**

This next programme phase of the Belfast Agenda is included within current Council resources. Given the significant workload associated with supporting delivery of the Belfast Agenda consideration is being given, as part of the ongoing organisational development programme to the necessary alignment and organisation of staff to ensure effective delivery.

**3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

Equality and good relations have been central to the development of the Belfast Agenda to date and equality and good relations implications will continue to be considered throughout the implementation process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**European Capital of Culture 2023**

The Committee agreed to the hosting of a special meeting to consider reports on the 2023 bid.

**City Region Growth Deal – Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To update the Committee on progress on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal, including the proposed geographic area, overall objective and key themes.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to approve:**

- the proposed geography for the Belfast City Region Deal as set out in the report;
- the overall objective of ‘more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI’;
- the key themes of Infrastructure, Innovation and Skills; and
- £15,000 to contribute to a joint, co-funded, pre-feasibility study with Louth and Newry and Mourne Councils and ARUP on a Belfast Dublin fast rail link.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1** At its meeting in June, members were updated on the proposals to progress a Belfast Region City Deal which included the timeline for the delivery of a full feasibility study, including the development of a detailed evidence base setting out the rationale and benefits of a City Deal.

**3.2** Progress on this was discussed with the Committee at its workshop on 6th September 2017 with specific detail provided on the proposed geographic area and the overall objective for the City Deal and its role in the achievement of the key commitments in the Belfast Agenda.

**The Belfast Region Geography**

**3.3** A 'city deal' is not just for a city but is designed to drive investment and growth across a much wider region and ensure that as large a population as possible feels the benefits of increased investment and employment.

**3.4** A principle of UK City Deals is that the proposed geography should be the 'largest geography consistent with economic geography and effective governance'. The proposed geography for the 'Belfast Region' takes in the Belfast Travel to Work Area, extended out to each of the local authority boundaries.

**3.5** Based on this travel to work area the current proposed geography includes;

- Belfast City Council;
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council;
- Ards & North Down Borough Council;
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council;
- Mid & East Antrim Borough Council; and
- Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

**3.6** A geographic spread of benefits will be core to the deal. As in other City Region Deals – all areas will see an uplift in increased access to jobs – and mechanisms will be used to ensure a spread across the Region.

**Belfast Region City Deal Overall Objective**

- 3.7 Inclusive Growth is at the heart of the Belfast Agenda and is about more and better jobs, improving living standards and earnings, offering in work progression and challenging barriers to employment such as child care, transport and training. Given that the City Deal is a key mechanism for delivering the ambitious agenda set out in the Belfast Agenda it is important that we develop a City Deal which puts 'Inclusive Growth' at its core, increasing prosperity for the city region, driving forward regional growth and providing wider social and environmental benefits.
- 3.8 The proposed overarching objective for the city deal is  
*'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'*
- 3.9 This re-enforces and supports the Belfast Agenda and will help deliver against the key priorities agreed in the plan.

**Belfast Region City Deal – Key themes**

- 3.10 In order to deliver against our objective a 'Cohesive' Programme of investment being considered for a Belfast Region City Deal comprises three main themes:
- infrastructure, innovation and skills.
- 3.11 The infrastructure theme comprises 'economic infrastructure' which could include:
- Transport infrastructure; Regeneration; Tourism projects; and Digital infrastructure.
- 3.12 Innovation builds on our key sectoral growth areas and may include for example Centres of Excellence at FE/HE Colleges which allow local economies and industries to compete in a global market.
- 3.13 Skills - A central part of the Belfast Region City Deal will be to ensure that alongside the programme of capital investment, parallel action is taken on employability and skills programmes to ensure that people are ready to take up the specific additional jobs created. Collectively addressing skills deficits will deliver stronger, more inclusive and more resilient economic outcomes which

will provide sustainable solutions to the social challenges faced by the Belfast Region.

**Next Steps**

3.15 Work will continue on the detailed feasibility study including the identification of proposed projects, governance structures, performance metrics and financial modelling to further develop the Deal. This will include intensive engagement with:

- Belfast City-Region Councillors and officers
- DCLG
- NI Assembly representatives
- Northern Ireland Office
- Taoiseach's Office/Department for Foreign Affairs
- Business sector including large businesses and representative bodies
- Innovation sector including universities, further education and innovation hubs
- City stakeholders such as the Belfast Harbour Commission
- NI Civil Service departments notably Department for Infrastructure; Department for the Economy and Department for Finance

3.16 It is also proposed that Council contributes to a joint, co-funded, pre-feasibility study with Louth and Newry and Mourne Councils and ARUP on a Belfast Dublin fast rail link.

3.17 Committee should note that the first joint workshop for elected members from the Belfast City Region Deal Councils is scheduled for 28th September 2017. Party Group Briefings will also be held on the next steps including possible projects.

3.18 **Financial and Resource Implications**

£15,000 to contribute to a joint, co-funded, pre-feasibility study with Louth and Newry and Mourne Councils and ARUP on a Belfast Dublin fast rail link from within existing budgets.

Further financing may be required to progress the City Region Growth Deal in particular the development of business cases associated with specific projects. This will be considered as part of the half year finance report.

3.19 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

To be considered in preparation of City Region Growth Deal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Launch of the Smart Belfast Framework  
and Innovation Programme**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

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

- 1.1 To provide further details about the launch of the Smart Belfast framework in the City Hall on Tuesday, 26 September 2017 to which all Members have been invited. This paper also provides details of the new Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund (with the potential value for local SMEs of over £860,000) which will be launched jointly with Invest NI at the same event.**
- 1.2 This report also seeks Members' approval for the next major work strands which the Smart Belfast team are proposing to undertake over the coming months in support of the objectives of the Smart Belfast framework. A common theme across all these work strands is creating opportunities for greater collaborative innovation between the public and private sector in order to better address city challenges and to support the transformation of public services.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- note the agenda for the launch of the Smart Belfast framework and the invitation to all Members to attend.**
- note the launch of the Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge fund and the five city challenges.**
- note Belfast's submission of an expression of interest in a £30 million bid to the national Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme.**
- agree that in the event of a successful agreed bid to Digital Catapult's LPWAN competition, the Council will commit £30,000 to support activities that exploit Internet of Things technology to address Belfast and regional challenges.**
- allocate £127,000 of non-recurring capital finance for the capital works required to support the establishment of the Immersive Technology hub, subject to agreement on the licensing terms between DfE and Bel Tel LLP.**

- note that the process to recruit the Belfast Commissioner for Resilience will commence within the next month and
- agree to provide a letter of support to accompany 100 Resilient Cities' application to the 'International Urban Cooperation (IUC) city-to-city cooperation' programme in support of an exchange programme between Belfast and the Columbian Resilient Cities of Cali and Medellín.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 Smart Belfast framework**

The Smart Belfast framework, previously agreed by Committee in May 2017, aims to marry the city's ambition to support its high-growth digital technology SME sector with a desire to bring the innovation of this sector to bear on urban challenges and public service transformation. The framework will be publicly launched in City Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 26 September to which all Members have been invited. (A printed copy of the framework document will be shared with Members at the meeting).

**3.2 The agenda for the launch event includes:**

- A breakfast briefing hosted by the Lord Mayor for representatives of large digital corporations. The briefing is an opportunity to share Belfast's smart city ambitions with those larger companies already investing in similar work across the world.
- The main launch event (10am to 12 noon in the Great Hall): Introduced by the Lord Mayor and attended by over 300 representatives from SMEs, public bodies and communities, the will set out the aims of a Smart Belfast, and the necessary foundations that are required for its success.
- Special guest Carl Piva, Vice-President of Global Strategic Programmes at TM Forum will then make the economic development case for smart cities – which create attractive propositions for FDI. Mr Piva works closely with cities across the world, including the US and China, on building successful smart city strategies. (Belfast recently become a member of TM Forum – a global non-profit association of over 850 digital partners set up to encourage collaborative problem-solving.)

**Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund**

3.3 Generously supported by Invest NI, this new fund will be launched at the same City Hall event. The fund is aimed at local digital SMEs working together to scope out innovative solutions to urban challenges. Over 300 individuals and companies have already registered their interest in the fund.

3.4 Five 'urban challenges', linked to the Belfast Agenda, have been identified that will provide real-life opportunities for local companies to engage with the public sector to develop innovative solutions. Initially, £25,000 will be available for up to eight SME-led networks seeking to explore innovation in:

1. Encouraging greater numbers of commuter to adopt public transport and increasing active travel throughout the city centre.
2. Finding better ways to understand and measure visitor activity in the city
3. Getting deeper insights into the flow of 'waste' resources to enable their re-use in the city's economy.
4. Understanding the impact of active living programmes on the city's population.
5. Finding opportunities to make new or more efficient use of the Council's and partners buildings and infrastructure.

3.5 Following this seven-month scoping phase more substantial funding (up to £170,000 each) may then be available for particular proposals that can demonstrate business growth potential. Copies of the Challenge briefs and details of the Fund will be available on the Council website from 26 September.

3.6 **Expression of Interest in Full Fibre programme**

The recently launched Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme (part of the National Productivity Investment Fund), which currently has £200 million allocated to it, aims to accelerate the market delivery of new full fibre networks. Pilots have been announced aimed at testing four complimentary approaches:

- I. Aggregating public sector demand
- II. Incentivising new fibre with upgrades to public sector buildings
- III. Reusing public sector assets such as ducts
- IV. A new Gigabit voucher scheme which businesses can access



- 3.7 Belfast City Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to the programme seeking a £30 million full fibre investment for four potential project areas:
- Belfast City Council Anchor Tenancy procurement which would provide Dark Fibre Upgrades for all Belfast City Council's networked sites with the potential to future-proof and provide resilient connectivity to our key sites for the next 50 years. (£6 million)
  - Northern Ireland Regional Gigabit Voucher Scheme – A Gigabit Voucher Scheme could resolve those areas across Belfast which currently suffer from poor broadband connectivity (£20 million)
  - Reuse of 'Streets Ahead' Public Realm scheme ducting
  - Other – Belfast Independent Internet Exchange – A neutral place where network operators and digital providers can meet and exchange data traffic, to improve the customer internet experience cost effectively (£4 million)
- 3.8 The full application process will follow a number of workshops which are currently being organised by the Department of Culture Media and Sport. Representatives from Digital Services will attend these workshops to discuss the challenge fund and application process. Further updates will be provided for Members when the application process gets underway.

Regional 'Internet of Things' competition

- 3.9 Digital Catapult UK is running a £540,000 national competition to set up five regional free-to-use LPWAN networks. These are state-of-the-art radio networks that can be used to control a vast range of low-cost sensors and smart devices. Such networks are important building blocks for Internet of Things technologies (a recognised future growth area for the digital and manufacturing sector) and as such represent an important component of the Smart Belfast framework.
- 3.10 Invest NI and Ulster University are developing a Northern Ireland consortium bid and are seeking to agree a joint proposal with a range of partners prior the submission deadline of 29 September. Successful bids need to demonstrate three main things: how the network will be deployed; how the SME innovator community will be supported to utilise the network; and how the network will be used to address challenges in each area.

- 3.11 Partners, including all NI local councils and Tourism NI, are being asked to contribute, in principle, to a challenge programme which would provide funding to local SMEs to exploit this new technology to order to tackle local and regional challenges and to improve public sector services. It is proposed that, in the event of a successful bid, Belfast City Council would, in principle, commit £30,000 to the challenge programme to support activities that address Belfast and regional challenges.

Immersive Technology Hub

- 3.12 The UK Government's Digital Catapult (DCUK) was set up by UK Government to support the acceleration of digital innovations to make the UK economy stronger. The Catapult has identified 'immersive technology' as a significant growth area for the national economy and are providing a range of programmes and investments to support its development. ('Immersive technology' includes Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality technology – and is being developed not only for use in gaming but for exploitation in medicine, tourism, advanced manufacturing, urban planning, etc.)
- 3.13 DCUK wish to establish three regional immersive technology hubs (in Belfast, Gateshead and Brighton) which will both showcase the potential of the technology and foster opportunities for SMEs and others to collaborate and to grow their capabilities in this technology.
- 3.14 DCUK have offered £70,000 of Immersive Tech equipment to each hub and will support activities through a series of national competitions and other initiatives (including a major competition launch on 10 October 2017).
- 3.15 The NI Department for the Economy (DfE) and Digital Catapult NI have explored several options for a suitable city centre location and have identified space within the Bel Tel building as an ideal venue for the hub. Officials from DfE are now engaging with the Bel Tel LLP to agree licensing terms and fees for this space for an initial 18 month period.
- 3.16 DfE have indicated that they will further support the hub by providing up to five members of staff, including a Hub Manager who would co-ordinate programming from the venue. The Hub space would also be used as a venue for joint projects between Council, other public agencies and the digital SME sector.

- 3.17 Work is required to bring the identified space up to a suitable standard and Council are being asked to contribute to this capital cost. Subject to agreement on the licensing terms between DfE and Bel Tel LLP, Members are therefore asked to allocate £127,000 of non-recurring capital finance for the capital works required to support the establishment of the Immersive Technology hub.

**Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilience Cities programme**

- 3.18 Members will be aware that, as part of the city's membership of the 100 Resilience Cities (100RC) network, the Foundation would provide grant funding to recruit a Belfast Commissioner for Resilience for two years. This person will also be able to access significant additional resources and international consultancy expertise on behalf of the city to develop a Belfast Resilience Strategy.
- 3.19 100RC have now commissioned an executive search agency to work with Belfast City Council to recruit the Commissioner post. This process is due to commence within the next few weeks and will include national publicity about the vacancy.
- 3.20 In addition, as part of their 100RC programme, Rockefeller Foundation have a substantial relationship with the Columbian cities of Cali and Medellin where they have been supporting urban and economic development work and post conflict resilience building. Working with the office of the President of Columbia, 100RC are proposing a learning exchange programme between Belfast and these two 100RC cities that would be supported by the Council's new Commissioner for Resilience, Invest NI, and other city partners.
- 3.21 100RC have identified funding for the programme via the EU's 'International Urban Cooperation (IUC) city-to-city cooperation' programme. 100RC have offered to submit an application to the IUC on Belfast's behalf and have requested that both Invest NI and Belfast City Council provide a letter of support.
- 3.22 Members are asked to agree to the Council providing a letter of support to accompany the 100RC application.
- 3.23 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The £127,000 of non-recurring capital spend for the necessary capital works required to support the establishment of the

**Immersive Technology hub in the Bel Tel building have been identified within the non-recurrent capital budget.**

**3.24 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Governance**

**Freedom of the City for Sir Kenneth Branagh**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting in November 2015, it had adopted the following process for future proposals for the award of the Freedom of the City:

- When a request is received from a Member of Council or a member of the public for the Freedom of the City to be conferred, the Democratic Services Manager will liaise with the Party Leaders on the Council to ascertain the level of support which the proposal would have;
- Once the level of support is known, a report will be submitted in the first instance to the Budget and Transformation Panel so that an informal discussion of the proposal can take place and any minor issues resolved; and
- If there is at least 2/3 of the whole number of Members (40 Member) supportive of the proposal, then the Chief Executive will contact the proposed recipient to ask if they would be amenable to accepting the award should the Council offer it. If there is a positive response, a report will be submitted to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee recommending that the award be made and requesting it to set a date for a meeting of the Council to formally consider the proposal.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that a request had been received in April, 2017, from the then Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston, that the Council consider awarding the Freedom of the City to Sir Kenneth Branagh, given that he was born in this city and recognising his outstanding achievements and international status in drama and cinema, as actor, director, producer and screen writer.

In accordance with existing Council policy on the award of the Freedom of the City, the views of the Party Groups on the Council had been sought as to whether or not they would be supportive of such a suggestion. Parties had responded and there was overwhelming support for the award to be made. Sir Kenneth had indicated that he would be honoured to accept the award.

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The Committee agreed to award the Freedom of the City to Sir Kenneth Branagh and that a Special Meeting of the Council be convened at 6.00pm on Monday, 2nd October, 2017, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting, for that purpose.

**Process for Considering Requests for the Freedom of the City**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider the process applied for requests for the conferment of the Freedom of the City.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Agree not to make any change to the established process for considering requests for the Freedom of the City but to agree that the award will not be granted more than once in any Council term except when there are exceptional circumstances; and**
- **Agree to receive a further report at October’s Strategic Policy and Resources Committee considering an approach to some form of recognition for individuals or organisations at a lower level than the award of the Freedom of the City.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Background**

**The former Council’s policy on consideration of requests for the award of the Freedom of the City was agreed in 1996.**

**In 2013, the Council agreed to bestow the honour of the Freedom of the City to two individuals – Van Morrison and Dame Mary Peters. Prior to this, there was a period of 11 years when no such awards were made. In 2015, the Freedom was awarded to Michael Longley and to the Nursing Service in Belfast. There are now a total of 81 Freemen of the City.**

**3.2 Legislation**

**The Local Government (Modification of Borough Charters) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973 has been revoked by the Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland)**

**2015. The rules are now much simpler. The award can be agreed by the Council by way of a special resolution by a simple majority vote and there is not any need for 10 days' notice of the special Council meeting to be given.**

**Although the new legislation does not require a 2/3 majority of the Council to support a proposal to award the Freedom of the City, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 20th November, 2015 agreed that the Council would continue with its previous policy as set out below:**

- When a request is received from a Member of Council or a member of the public for the Freedom of the City to be conferred, the Democratic Services Manager will liaise with the Party Leaders on the Council to ascertain the level of support which the proposal would have.**
- Once the level of support is known, a report will be submitted in the first instance to the Budget and Transformation Panel so that an informal discussion of the proposal can take place and any minor issues resolved.**
- If there is at least 2/3 of the whole number of Members (40 Member) supportive of the proposal, then the Chief Executive will contact the proposed recipient to ask if they would be amenable to accepting the award should the Council offer it. If there is a positive response, a report will be submitted to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee recommending that the award be made and requesting it to set a date for a meeting of the Council to formally consider the proposal.**

### **3.3 Current policy**

- Council can recognise individuals and organisations whom it considers have rendered eminent service to the city, those who have brought distinction to the city or Northern Ireland or those who have made an outstanding contribution to the wider national or international sphere.**
- Proposals are received by the Chief Executive who brings, outside the committee system, the proposal to the party group leaders to ascertain party support. If there is not enough support for the honour (in other words over two-thirds), the Chief Executive privately and discreetly informs the proposer; thus avoiding unnecessary embarrassment to the individual or group being proposed. If there is support, the Chief Executive then contacts the individual or group to ascertain if the**

individual or group would be willing to accept the award if the Council were to offer it.

- If the Chief Executive is satisfied that there is likely to be enough support within the Council and the proposed recipient has agreed to accept the award, if offered, the Chief Executive shall submit the proposal to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. If the Committee supports the proposal, a special meeting of the full council will be arranged.

There are currently no limits on the number of people who can receive the award.

**3.4 Strengths of current policy**

The current policy does not tie councillors down to a rigid framework or set criteria that could become inflexible – it leaves the decision to the discretion of the councillors.

**3.5 Issues with current policy**

There have been previous concerns raised that this honour could become over used, lessening the prestige of the award.

It is not suggested that there should be any major change to the policy for the award of the Freedom of the City but rather that there is a recognition that this award should only be used infrequently so as to maintain the prestige of the office of Freeman.

**3.6 Possible addition to the current policy**

Following discussions with the Party Leaders, at their meeting on 27th April and last month, it was agreed that the Council should consider adding to its current policy to provide for some form of recognition for individuals or organisations at a lower level than the award of the Freedom of the City. Subject to Committee agreement and consideration of the issues it is suggested that a further report is brought to Strategic Policy & Resources in October considering such an approach.

**3.7 Financial and Resource Implications**

None associated with this report.

**3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None associated with this report.”

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The Committee adopted the recommendations

**Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation –  
Special Events on Roads**

The City Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit for approval an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation regarding road closures for special events.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- agree the proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation, as recommended by the Licensing Committee in June 2017.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Background**

**The Roads (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 was enacted on 13 August 2010. An Order, commencing the specific special events provisions, was made on 25 January 2017 with the provisions becoming operational on 4 September 2017.**

**3.2 Until now roads have been closed by police using general policing powers. This new legislation provides the Council the power to authorise and approve, by order, the holding of a special event such as a street party, sporting event or making of a film on a public road.**

**3.3 This legislation was due to be commenced in 2013 and at the time Members of the Licensing Committee agreed that the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Licensing Committee to determine all applications under the Act. This decision was ratified by Council on 3rd April 2013. At that time, the Committee undertook to consider all applications whether or not any representations had been received by the Council.**



- 3.4 The Licensing Committee in June 2017 re-considered this issue based on feedback from Northern Ireland Screen who raised concerns that the estimated turnaround time of three months from application to determination could have an impact on the film industry in Northern Ireland, which operates on relatively short lead-in times prior to filming commencing.
- 3.5 It is estimated that if delegated authority was granted to issue Orders, *where no objection is received* (as is the case with other licensing applications), an application could be determined within approximately 35 days, taking account of a statutory 21 days within which representations may be made.
- 3.6 Therefore, it is recommended that the Scheme of Delegation is amended so that the exercise of the following functions, in line with relevant Council policies, is delegated to the Director of Planning and Place:
- ‘Exercising all powers in relation to the making of an Order restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connect with special events, excluding provisions relating to:
- applications for an order where adverse representations are made
  - the recovery of costs incurred by the Council as a consequence of making an Order and such other matters as the Director deems appropriate’
- 3.7 At the Licensing Committee it was also agreed that a notification procedure would be put in place to alert Members to all applications received by the Council to close roads. Thereby, even if representations were not made Members would be aware of all applications received and have an opportunity to comment on them if necessary. This will be managed by Building Control.
- 3.8 Members are advised that the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the making of an Order restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connection with special events will remain with the Licensing Committee. Any decision of the Licensing Committee in relation policy and legislation concerning licensing matters must be ratified by Council.
- 3.9 Financial & Resource Implications
- There will be direct financial costs attached to the administration of the new legislation and, whilst such costs

**may be recovered from applications, decisions in relation to the extent of public notification required and the fee charging option chosen will determine the actual financial implication. This will be determined by the Licencing Committee in due course. Building Control has not had the opportunity to factor the role and costs of administrating this legislation into its budget for the financial year 2017-18.**

**3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Building Control had previously assessed the equality and good relations implications with the introduction of the legislation and liaised with the Equality & Diversity Officer to ensure all potential issues are appropriately addressed. Building Control will continue to do this.”**

The Committee agreed to the proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation, as recommended by the Licensing Committee in June, 2017.

**Introduction of a System of Proportionality for the Position of High Sheriff**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the introduction of a system of proportionality for the identification of candidates for consideration for the appointment to the Office of High Sheriff. The Democratic Services Manager reported that a question had been raised as to whether the Council could and should introduce a system of proportionality to identify those Parties which would be entitled to nominate a person to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff.

In short, the Council could decide to do this if they so wished. However, in considering whether it should do so the Committee take into account the following points.

The position of High Sheriff is not one which is within the Council's gift. Rather, the appointment is made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who, each year, requested the Council to provide him/her with the names of three persons suitable for appointment. For many years now, the process which the Council had used to do this was for one name only to be provided and the name of that person was decided by the Council at a full Council meeting. Where more than one candidate was nominated, the Council voted and the person who received the most votes was duly nominated.

The position of High sheriff was not a "Position of Responsibility" as defined in the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and therefore the Council was not required to use a system of proportionality to make the nominations. However, the Council could decide to use the same system as proportionality as it did for those Positions of Responsibility when deciding on whom to nominate for High Sheriff.

The Positions of Responsibility were allocated at the first annual meeting of the Council following a Local Council election for each year of the 4-year Term. The Council

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could decide to apply the D'hondt system to the nomination of candidates for High Sheriff as a separate pool of 4 positions. If this had been applied at the start of the current Council Term then, given the strengths of the Political parties as at the elections in 2014, the 4 choices would have fallen to:

1. SF
2. DUP
3. SF
4. ALL
5. SDLP
6. UUP
7. DUP

In the past, both Sinn Fein and SDLP had not nominated anyone as a candidate for High Sheriff and, if that had continued, then the 4 Parties which would have been entitled to nominate a candidate and which would wish to avail of that choice would have been:

1. DUP
2. ALL
3. UUP
4. DUP

Of course, it would have been a matter for a political party to choose which of the 4 years it wished when it was their turn to choose.

Should the Council decide to introduce proportionality from the start of the next Council Term in 2019 then, of course, the Parties which would be eligible to nominate a candidate would be dependent upon the outcome of the Local Election.

The Council could decide to examine the Parties that have already nominated to the position so far in this Term (Alderman Rodgers – UUP in 2016 and Alderman Haire – DUP in 2017) and then to allocate the remaining two nominations in this Term to the Parties which had choices left under the D'hondt system, which would mean that the following two nominations would fall to Alliance and DUP.

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the Council is committed to equality and fairness and that Civic posts should be allocated according to electoral support and therefore the Council should use a system of proportionality. In terms of the decision of High Sheriff, the Council agrees to forward one nominee to the Secretary of State and nominations will be according to the D'hondt system, with the arrangement commencing for the remaining years of this Council Term.

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**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Reynold,  
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter for one month to enable discussions to take place on the appointment of the High Sheriff for the remainder of the Council Term and to consider a proportionality system in the next Council Term.

On a vote by show of hands six Members for the amendment and eleven against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor O'Neil was put to the meeting when eleven Members voted for and six against and it was declared carried.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Physical Programme Update –  
Capital Programme and LIF**

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Committee that it had agreed that all capital projects much go through a 3 stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Accordingly, he requested the Committee to agree the following movements as summarised below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Stage</b>
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	To examine the options in relation to the refurbishment and upgrade of the Palm House in Botanic Gardens	Add as an Emerging Project

He reported that the Palm House in the Botanic Gardens was one of the earliest examples of a glasshouse made from curved iron glass in the United Kingdom. The building was designed by Sir Charles Lanyon and dated back to the 1840s. The building was of significant heritage and cultural importance, however, over the years the condition of the building had gradually declined. The Members would be aware that the adjoining Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens had been undergoing a £4.1m restoration over the past few years of which £2.4m was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Works on the building are almost complete and it was envisaged that it would be reopened to the public early next year. The redevelopment of the Palm House, in tandem with the newly refurbished Tropical Ravine, together with the Ulster Museum which recently underwent a substantial renovation programme, could potentially provide a key cultural, heritage and tourism destination helping to restore Botanic Gardens to its former glory as one of the leading Victorian parks within the United Kingdom.

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Accordingly, it was recommended that the proposed upgrade of the Palm House at Botanic Gardens be added to the Capital Programme which would allow the options in relations to the site to be worked up and for the funding strategy to be developed, including the initiation of discussions with the HLF about potential funding for the project.

In addition, the Committee was requested to note that one LIF project which had previously been agreed for in principle funding (NLIF066 – Wishing Well) had now been scored by officers, had met the minimum threshold and it was recommended that it be now progressed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process.

The Committee agreed that the Palm House, Botanic Gardens be added as a stage 1 – Emerging Project and that the Wishing Well projects be progressed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process.

**Disability – Accessible WC and Creation of a New Family Room Facility in City Hall**

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on proposals to re-locate the existing disability-accessible WC and to create of a new Family Room in the East Wing of the City Hall, and also to reverse the positioning of the existing toilet facilities in the East area to facilitate these changes.**

**2.0 Decision(s) required and recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to:**

- **approve the proposal to re-locate the existing disability-accessible WC; create a new family room to enable breast-feeding/feeding and changing facilities for young children and reverse the current positioning of the ladies and gents’ toilet locations in the East entrance area in order to enhance compliance with statutory duties and best practice; and**
- **note the update in respect of the proposed provision of a Changing Places Facility in the City Hall and that a further update will be brought back in due course on this.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Members will be aware that the new Exhibition area in the City Hall opened to the public on 16th May 2017. As part of this**

overall facility, and in line with the requirements of the Building Control service in terms of compliance with the relevant building regulations and disability access legislation, a disability-accessible WC facility was built adjacent to the existing male toilets in the East entrance area. Under the regulations this must be located within 30m of the main Exhibition facility.

- 3.2 The available space to construct this facility was quite limited due to the construction of the walls and the existing layout of the area, and consequently a modest relaxation of the strict application of the building regulations was allowed by Building Control. Although this is a perfectly legitimate application of the professional discretion allowed to Building Control it is recognised that, although the facility is now operational and useable, it would be better if it could be enhanced in terms of its size and fit-out and be made fully compliant with the regulations in all respects.
- 3.3 At the same time, the Committee will also be aware that the issue of the lack of a dedicated and private family room for people with small children and breast-feeding mothers has been a concern for some time. Committee will be aware that this is currently on the council's Capital Programme as a Stage 2 projects as part of the wider scheme involving – City Hall – Family Room and the Additional Toilet Provision (including a Changing Places facility). An update in respect of the proposed Changing Places facility is given at 3.7 below.
- 3.4 An opportunity now exists however to deal with both matters in the course of a single project, which could be undertaken relatively quickly and would offer a number of benefits. This would involve moving the existing disability-accessible WC facility across to a new location adjacent to the current ladies' toilets in the East entrance area where more space is available to provide a larger overall facility, and then to refurbish the existing disabled toilet and create a new, dedicated Family Room at that location.
- 3.5 In order to further enhance this provision it would also be the intention to 'swap' the ladies and gents' toilet positions on the East entrance area at the same time, and to re-fit each. This would produce a more intuitive overall result in which the Family facility would be adjacent to the female toilets on the south side and the disability-accessible facility adjacent to the gents toilet area on the north side, and this does have significant benefits for the organization, most notably in terms of regularising the disability-accessible WC provision and at

the same time dealing with a long-standing omission in terms of a dedicated family facility. Both facilities would of course have separate entrance areas and be clearly sign-posted. The proposed layout is illustrated in Appendix 1 (attached).

- 3.6 If approved, the project would be delivered by the in-house Property Maintenance unit, and is planned to be complete by mid-December however this is dependent on the outcome of a number of competitive procurement exercises and this date may therefore change. Any significant changes to timescales will be brought to the Committee's attention. Detailed plans setting out the layout and dimensions of both facilities have been lodged with the Building Control service, and the intended scheme has also been submitted to the Heritage Service for approval as required in light of the fact that the City Hall is a Grade B listed building. Both of these statutory approvals will of course be necessary before the project can physically commence, however the Committee's approval in principle is now sought in order to facilitate design and planning activity.

3.7 Update on Changing Places facility

As outlined above Members will be aware that there has been demand for some time for the provision of a Changing Places facility within the City Hall. This is part of the wider Stage 2 – Uncommitted scheme. Work is currently underway in respect of the options available for a Changing Place facility on the ground floor within the City Hall and a further update will be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

The overall project costs are estimated to be £30,000. If approved, the project is to be funded as a non-recurring scheme. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The work comprised in this proposal will enhance the council's offer to people with disabilities and also to people with young children and improve statutory compliance, and is therefore a benefit in terms of equality. Equality staff have been consulted in relation to these proposals and are content to recommend them to the Committee."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Assets Management**

### **Suffolk FC – Licence for 100 Seater Spectator Stand**

The Committee approved the grant of a licence to Suffolk FC to allow the Club to install a proposed stand, subject to the club securing the necessary funding, statutory approvals, including planning permission, and providing adequate insurance cover.

The Committee noted that the Licence would run alongside the existing Facilities Management Agreement.

### **Deed of Dedication - Cregagh Green**

The Committee approved the recommendation of the People and Communities Committee of 7th March, 2017, and agreed to proceed with the completion of a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust in respect of the identified land at Cregagh Green, subject to the approval of the Department of Communities (Local Government Policy Division).

## **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

### **Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2016 – 2017**

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 present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2017.**
- 1.2 The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council’s overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council’s finances and its financial position.**
- 1.3 The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 10/17 dated 13 March 2017.**
- 1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income**



and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to**

- approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 Audit Opinion**

It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016-17, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and

the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 is consistent with the financial statements.

**3.2 Reserves**

**General Fund**

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £20,989,452 (of which £7,634,933 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

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**Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position**

Opening Balance	£19.2m
In year movement in reserves	£ 1.8m
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£21.0m</b>
Specified Reserves at year end	£ 7.6m
<b>Balance Available</b>	<b><u>£13.4m</u></b>

**3.3 Capital Fund £24,850,616**

The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£3,810,715). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£4,056,629) to fund smaller local regeneration projects, the City Centre Investment Fund (£15,699,861) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans, the Social Outcomes Fund (£1,000,000) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support attraction of investment and the BWUH Subvention Fund (£283,411) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

**3.4 Leisure Mobilisation Fund £1,945,000**

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

**3.5 Capital Receipts Reserve £1,632,457**

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure. This amount relates mainly to the sale of land & buildings at Loop River (£860,000).

**3.6 Other Fund Balances and Reserves £357,818**

This relates to the Election Reserve which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections.

### 3.7 Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 9 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £4.2m at 31 March 2017. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2017	31 March 2016
Less than three months	£3,305,930	£2,434,909
Three to one year	£111,596	£166,672
More than one year	£789,382	£1,021,813
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,206,908</b>	<b>£3,623,394</b>

### 3.8 Creditors

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 61,092 invoices totalling £185,282,726.

3.9 The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 23 days for the year ended 31 March 2017. The Council paid 43,898 invoices within 10 days, 53,600 invoices within 30 days, and 7,492 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

### 3.10 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2016/17, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- significant governance issues to be disclosed.

3.11 The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

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**3.12 Financial and Resource Implications**

**None**

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**None.”**

The Committee approved the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March, 2017.

**Contracts for Award**

The Committee:

- (1) Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1 Table 1, and Table 2, through the Council's electronic procurement system
- (2) Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by month extensions where contracts were under review.
- (3) Approved the award of contracts outlined in Appendix 1, Table 3 that had been carried out by Arc21 on behalf of the Council:

**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 - New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Development Consultant	Nuala Gallagher	2-3 years

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**Table 2 - New tenders – Peace IV**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
<i>Tech for Good</i> - Development and delivery of a peace building digital cross-community programme	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Tech for Good (Children &amp; Young People 1)</i> - Development and delivery of a Diversity Awareness / Good Relations training programme.	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Tech for Good</i> - Supply of IT Equipment to support training programme	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Playing our Part</i> - Development and delivery of a cross-community Play Programme for young people	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Playing our Part (Children &amp; Young People 2)</i> - Development and delivery of Diversity Awareness/Good Relations training programme	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Young Advocates</i> - Development and delivery of training programme for young people in youth advocacy and campaigning for equality, human rights and social change	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Young Advocates (Children &amp; Young People 4)</i> - Development and Delivery of Diversity Awareness/Good Relations programme.	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Creative Legacies</i> - Appointment of Artists to engage local communities in creative arts	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Creative Legacies</i> - Development and delivery of programme of creative events and publications.	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
<i>Commemorating Centenaries -</i> Development and delivery of programme of significant anniversaries over the period 2017-2021	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Supporting Communities -</i> Development and delivery of intervention programmes supporting new communities	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
<i>Supporting Communities -</i> Development and delivery of intervention programmes aimed at Traveller and Roma communities	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years

**Table 3 – Tenders awarded by Arc21 on behalf of the Council**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Provision of Receipt, Processing, Treatment Recycling and Disposal of Street Sweepings Waste	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with the option to renew up to a further 12 months

**Request for Events and Festivals Funding 2018 – 2019**

(Mr. Donal Durkan, Director of Development, attended in connection with this item.)

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 request approval from Members to financially support a range of music events and festivals during the financial year 2018/19, pending the outcome of the current strategic review of Events and Festivals. The events are as follows:**

- Féile an Phobail
- Other Voices
- Gradam Ceoil.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- give priority to the named events and festivals when it is considering in-year allocations at the half or year-end periods.

## 3.0 Main Report

3.1 As Members will be aware, Festivals and Events International (FEI) Consultants have been appointed to develop an Events and Festival Strategy. This will be completed by December 2017. The Strategy will set the direction of travel in relation to the future decisions on Council financial support for events and festivals from 2019/20 onwards. The draft strategy will be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for endorsement later in this calendar year. Given that any decisions made will take a while before they can be implemented, 2018/19 will effectively be a transition year for events and festivals support within the Council.

3.2 Investment in events and festivals can help strengthen the profile of the City as a culturally vibrant destination, thus supporting the Belfast Agenda and also aligning well with the current bid for European Capital of Culture in 2023. They also reinforce the commitment to build the City's cultural profile and showcase its creative talent. It is considered that support for the events and festivals noted in this report will make an overwhelmingly positive contribution towards the promotion of Belfast and its cultural offer and will generate significant economic return by virtue of additional visitor spend. It will also help to create a positive profile of the City as a culturally vibrant location with a rich musical heritage in line with the new city narrative.

3.3 At the August 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members agreed to approve an allocation of £200,000 towards a programme of BBC-led music events including the Folk Awards and a Big Music Weekend. Officers advised of a number of additional culture and music-focused events which were in the pipeline for 2018/19 and which would require Council support to proceed. These are:-

- Féile an Phobail – financial request of £150,000 towards the August 2018 event
- Oher Voices – financial request of £40,000 towards the October 2018 event
- Gradam Ceoil – financial request of £50,000 towards the February 2019 event.

**3.4** The Committee agreed to refer the funding requirement for these three events to the September meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with a request to give priority to these events and festivals when it is considering in-year allocations at the half or year-end periods.

**3.5** Members are reminded that, in addition to the City Events Programme and events supported through its various funding streams, the Council has also committed £180,000 of support towards the UK Pipe Band Championships in Summer 2018.

#### **Overview of Events Seeking Council Support**

**3.6** **Féile an Phobail**

2018 marks the 30th Anniversary of Féile An Phobail. It is marketed as Ireland's biggest community arts festival and summer school. The purpose of the festival has always been to celebrate the positive side of the community – its creativity, energy, passion for arts, culture and sport.

**3.7** Féile is recognised for its collaborative community approach and it is intended that its 30th anniversary year festival will bring an inclusive programme of events which will demonstrate good relations in action, attracting more tourism and visitor spend and building increased social and cultural capital.

**3.8** The organisers are presently undertaking a stakeholder engagement strategy and have commenced consultation and planning for 2018 events. Since July 2017, workshops have been held with over 30 arts, cultural and tourism organisations from across the City. One of the key themes that has emerged from these workshops is 'ambition'. Taking this theme and the new event space at the Falls Park, they are aiming to attract some of the biggest artists from across the globe in 2018.

**3.9** For 2018/19, Féile aims to create a year-round programme of inclusive and accessible arts and cultural events, delivered across the City with four specific festivals during the year. This will include 400+ events with an audience reach of up to 100,000 people. The financial request from the Council is for a



contribution of £180,000 towards the cost of hosting the 2018 Féile celebration programme.

**3.10 Other Voices**

At the June 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members approved financial support of £40,000 towards the 'Other Voices' event in Belfast in October 2017. Since this, the organisers have established the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts as the hub for the October 2017 event. It is intended that the 2017 event will be a precursor to a larger Belfast event in 2018 and beyond.

**3.11** Other Voices has attracted a range of well-known acts since its inception in 2002. These have included Willie Nelson, Ellie Goulding, Gregory Porter, Amy Winehouse and Mumford and Sons. In addition, it has attracted many indigenous acts and has provided a platform to highlight up-and-coming talent. The event is currently broadcast on RTE's television and digital platforms with more than 16 million views and more than 7,000 followers on YouTube. It also involves a wide range of outreach and engagement activity with local residents and those involved in the culture and arts sector.

**3.12** The Other Voices team is currently exploring potential funding partners as well as building the local networks at community level to create a solid foundation for future activities. Experience from previous events suggests that it can have a significant economic, social and cultural impact on the local area.

**3.13** The 2017 Other Voices event will attract a number of high profile and local musicians. It will be broadcast extensively on television and on social media platforms and this will present an opportunity to showcase not only the event but also the city of Belfast. Organisers have identified the potential to tap into the huge creative talent in the city. Plans for the 2018 programme are advanced and it is proposed that it will link with one of the city's premier digital events. It will include an extensive outreach and engagement programme, particularly with young people. Organisers will target young people from disadvantaged areas and schools that do not have experience of getting involved in these events. The financial request from the Council is for a contribution of £40,000 towards a total programme cost in excess of £200,000.

**3.14 Gradam Ceoil**

Gradam Ceoil is an annual awards ceremony which celebrates the best of traditional Irish music and song. It comprises a

gala event as well as an extensive outreach and engagement programme before the event to maximise impact and economic benefit.

- 3.15 The City Growth and Regeneration Committee has already agree to support the Gradam Ceoil event in Belfast in February 2018. Organisers generally work with host cities on a multi-annual basis in order to build momentum in the event and develop deep cultural and visitor engagement opportunities.
- 3.16 Based on the experience of the city of Cork, it is estimated that Gradam Ceoil will have a direct economic impact in the region of £350,000 over the weekend, in terms of visitor spend. Furthermore, the live coverage on TG4 and the potential engagement of BBC (particularly BBC radio and online) and BBC Alba (Scottish channel), as well as PBS in USA (broadcast as recorded coverage), will all provide meaningful opportunities to showcase Belfast as a city of music, arts and culture.
- 3.17 There will be excellent opportunities to advertise and promote the city over the weekend. Gradam Ceoil will help attract new visitors to Belfast and make more people aware of the city's cultural offer. The fact that it takes place at a traditionally quiet time in the cultural and visitor calendar offers an opportunity to extend the tourism realm and support the local industry at this time.
- 3.18 Following the Committee agreement to support the 2018 event, planning is underway to programme a series of unique musical pieces and presentations, to reflect the cultural heritage and traditions in the City. This work will provide a foundation for the 2019 event subject to funding availability. In keeping with the other commitments under the 'Year of Music' banner, the 2019 Gradam Ceoil event will present an opportunity to showcase the breadth of unique musical talent in the city. The event will require a match-funding commitment of £50,000 from the Council towards an overall budget of around £230,000.
- 3.19 Equality and Good Relations Implications

These events and festivals will all be equality proofed and there will be a significant complementary suite of outreach and engagement programmes open to all communities.

**3.20 Financial and Resource Implications**

The financial support required from Belfast City Council for each initiative is as follows:

- Féile an Phobail 2018/19: £180,000
- Other Voices 2018/19: £40,000
- Gradam Ceoil 2018/19: £50,000

**3.21 In total £270,000 additional funding is required to support these events. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is requested to give priority to the funding of these events and festivals when it is considering in-year allocations at the half year or year-end.”**

The Committee agreed to give priority to the following named events and festivals when it was considering in-year allocations at the half year or year-end periods:

- Féile an Phobail
- Other Voices
- Gradam Ceoil.

It was agreed also that other organisations, such as Eastside Arts, holding special events, would be added to the list if a request for funding were submitted.

The Committee noted that these requests for funding would have to be considered in the context of other competing priorities such as City Deal and the European Capital of Culture 2023.

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 11th September.

**Equality Action Plan and Annual Report**

The Committee was reminded that the Council was required by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to develop an Equality Action Plan. The Council was also required to report annually to the Equality Commission for NI on the progress of its implementation of its Equality Scheme.

It was reported that a draft Equality Action Plan had been issued for public consultation from 13th December, 2016 till 7th March, 2017 and had been updated based on feedback. The consultation had been aligned with the Belfast Agenda initial consultation period and considered in line with the agreed priorities from the Belfast

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Agenda. Following feedback during the public consultation, the main updates to the Action Plan included:

- Renaming the Equality Action Plan 'Equality and Diversity Framework' to reflect the broader actions across the organisation which were in addition to the equality compliance actions;
- The Community Safety Plan was now included as one of our key actions under 'Leadership, Partnership and Organisational Commitment'; and
- A review of the Equality Consultative Forum and engagement mechanisms across all Section 75 groups will be addressed in 2017/18.

The Council was also required to report annually to the Equality commission on the implementation of the Council's Equality Scheme, including progress on delivery of actions identified to promote equality of opportunity and good relations.

The Committee approved:

- The updates Draft Equality and Diversity Framework 2017-21; and
- The Council's Annual Report to the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland (ECNI) for 2016-17.

**Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2017 – 2022**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To update Members on the proposed governance and delivery approaches for the Decade of Centenaries area of work and the proposed programme for the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries. This next phase will cover Decade of Centenaries Commemorations from 2017 up until 2022.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- **Agree the proposed governance and delivery approaches for the Decade of Centenaries area of work and approve the proposed programme outline for delivery over the coming 6 years. The programme includes activity within the current Council term, with agreement in principle on activity to be delivered following Council elections in 2019. Any activity agreed now, for beyond 2019, would be reviewed at that stage.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

Members will be aware of the programme of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, which has been ongoing since 2011. The Decade of Centenaries has been considered by the Diversity Working Group until March of this year, when that group ceased. Council decided at its April meeting that Decade of Centenaries issues would be discussed at the Shared City Partnership from then on.

**3.2** In 2011, Members of the then Historic Centenaries Working Group had agreed a three phased approach to the Decade of Centenaries, divided into 3 phases.

**3.3** The first period, 1912-1914, was entitled 'Shared History, Differing Allegiances'. The second period, 1914-1918, would cover the period of World War I, including the Somme and the Easter Rising. This activity, under the banner of 'Belfast; Reflections on 1916' was hugely successful. The third period, 1918-1922, would cover the end of WWI, the 1918 elections and the establishment of parliaments in Belfast and Dublin.

**3.4** Major exhibitions were commissioned for the Covenant, the Somme and the Easter Rising and there was a Civic Dinner to mark each of these three major historical events. All of this activity, and more, has been delivered thus far.

**3.5** In 2016, at the August meeting of the Diversity Working Group, Members requested that officers develop a programme for the remainder of the Decade, to run until 2022.

**3.6** Central to the programme, Members requested that:

- Activity being planned would continue with the objective of having a strong Belfast focus, exploring the human stories of lost lives and be respectful.
- The current Principles, agreed in 2011, will inform all activity within the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries

**3.7** This programme that has been developed contains a number of themes and a series of events to be delivered within each theme (see appendices 1 and 2)

**3.8** At their August meeting, Party Group Leaders agreed to the themes and programme within appendix 1 and 2 to be

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delivered from 2018 – 2022. The programme for this financial year (appendix 3) was agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in March of this year.

- 3.9** Members also confirmed that the Shared City Partnership and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would form the governance for the programme, with Party Group Leaders also having a regular input into programme development.
- 3.10** Party Group Leaders also requested that officers explore the possibility of delivering a large exhibition covering the themes within appendix 1 during this final phase of the Decade of Centenaries.
- 3.11** Members will also be aware of the wider Centenaries programme contained within the draft PEACE IV Plan. This programme will be an engagement programme within communities, whereas the Council's programme will be more of a Civic Programme of events as has been the case thus far.
- 3.12** Officers are engaging with the NIO and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to ascertain if they have substantial plans to mark the end of World War 1. Further updates will be provided in due course.
- 3.13** **Financial and Resource Implications**

All programme activity for the 2017/2018 financial year will be delivered from existing budgets. There is no resource to support delivery beyond March 2018. If members were content, a proposal to provide a portion of costs, up to £20,000 per annum, could be brought to the Shared City Partnership to approve as part of the annual District Council Good Relations Programme. Note, this funding could not be used to cover the costs associated with civic events.

- 3.14** **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

The Decade of Centenaries commemorations are part of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan, which was screened out following a screening exercise."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Exhibition Memorabilia Policy Refresh**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report on the above mentioned matter for a period of one month.

**Peace and Beyond Conference – Request  
for Authority to Invite Former President Clinton**

The Committee was reminded that 10th April, 2018 would mark 20 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA). The British Council, working with both universities as well as the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, was proposing to host a major conference in Belfast to mark the event. The conference would take place in a number of venues across the City from 10th – 12th April 2018.

The objective of the conference was to bring together policy makers and peace practitioners from around the world to share reflections and case studies on building effective, inclusive and sustainable peace. The series of plenary sessions, workshops, site visits and cultural events would create an open, inclusive and shared space for international dialogue to reflect upon the experience of peace processes across the world. The events would build on the Northern Ireland experience of and expertise in conflict resolution and peace building. By marking the achievement of the multi-track work that led to the signing of the Agreement, the conference would provide opportunities for international dialogue to reflect on the experience of everyday peace building. The conference would also reflect on the contribution of partners such as the EU and the USA in the achievement and continuation of peace.

The British Council and its partners hoped to attract a number of individuals who played a key role in the negotiations at attend the event. They hoped, in particular, to invite former US President Bill Clinton to the event. In order to provide civic endorsement to the invitation, the British Council had asked whether the Lord Mayor of Belfast could issue this invitation on behalf of the City.

The Conference programme is currently being drafted. It will involve a series of tours, discussion and panel sessions, cultural showcases and visits to relevant projects and sites across the City. These were likely to involve Girdwood and the Innovation Factory. Attendees at the event would come from Northern Ireland but there would also be representation from international cities that were dealing with issues of conflict resolution.

The involvement of former President Clinton was seen as highly symbolic, given his close involvement in local politics at the time of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. His visit to the City Hall and the former Mackie's site in 1995 were also undertaken at a critical time in the process. A return visit to both locations offered a significant opportunity to explore how the City had developed since that time and to showcase how local partners were working collectively to improve lives within our communities.

This Conference presented a significant opportunity for the City to tell its story twenty years on from the Good Friday Agreement. It also offered an opportunity to reflect on developments since that time and to engage in discussion with other cities and locations that had undergone similar experiences.

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The Committee authorised the Lord Mayor to issue an invitation on behalf of the City to former President Bill Clinton to address this major conference in Belfast to mark the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in April 2018.

**Consultation Report on Draft Linguistic Diversity Policy  
and Language Strategy Action Plan**

The City Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

**1.0 Purpose of report or summary of Main Issues**

**1.2 Members will be aware that at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 April 2017 approval was given to consult on the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity. A report on the findings from the consultation, which ran from 23 May 2017 to 18 July 2017 is presented for discussion. One of the key recommendations is to further develop the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity as a Language Strategy, and the related action plan, to run from October 2017 until March 2018, which has been developed from the consultation findings, is also presented for approval.**

**1.2 The Committee should note that this report was brought to Party Group Leaders and they requested briefings for clarity but Sinn Fein have asked that it is considered at the September Committee meeting.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the findings of the consultation on the draft Linguistic Diversity Policy and approve the recommendations;**
- Approve the Language Strategy Action Plan Oct 2017 – March 2018.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Background**

**Belfast aims to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all. To help achieve this aim and to meet other best practice guidance and legal requirements, we developed a draft Linguistic Diversity Policy, approved for consultation at Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 April 2017. The draft Linguistic Diversity Policy outlined our approach to promoting different languages in the Belfast City Council area. It builds on our 2006 Language Policy which needed to**



be revised to take account of the changing population and other developments.

- 3.2** The draft policy provided background on the changing dynamics of the population of Belfast and also explained the legal framework, current central government strategies and details of previous engagement with stakeholders.

Based on this information, the draft policy recommended an approach which included:

- The development of an over-arching Language Framework, which articulated our commitment to supporting minority languages whilst allowing the different needs of speakers of Irish, Ulster-Scots and other minority languages to be addressed effectively.
- Development of an Irish Language Policy which focused primarily on the enhancement and protection of the language;
- Development of an Ulster-Scots Language policy which looked more to the promotion of the language and the cultural and heritage aspects of the language rather than the need for translation of documents and interpretation services.
- Development of a policy on other minority languages (including sign languages) which focused on ensuring good communication and increasing awareness and understanding of minority cultures.

- 3.3** The draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity was subject to a formal consultation period which ran from 23 May 2017 to 18 July 2017. Prior to this period, there had already been informal engagement / pre-consultation meetings with relevant sectors to ensure that the draft policy reflected on priorities and issues for each stakeholder group, these had taken place over the period from 2013-17. The Policy was then considered in draft form by the various Party political groups represented within the Council before the formal consultation period began.

The consultation was launched on with a press statement, article on staff intranet and an invitation on the Council's website to respond to the consultation.

- 3.4** For the general public different ways to respond were:

- An online questionnaire of public opinion on the Council's Consultation Hub, including information (hard copies were also available)

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- Attendance at one of two engagement events, designed to gather the same information as the online questionnaire.
- Attending any of four themed focus groups: Irish Language, Ulster-Scots Language, New Communities and Deaf or Partial Hearing, and / or Disabled people.
- Consultation comments could also be received by email and letter

**3.5 For staff different ways to respond were:**

- An online survey available (internally only) on the online Consultation Hub, including information and completion of an online questionnaire, available from 26 June until 18 July 2017 (hard copies were also available);
- One to one meetings with Dr John Kremer, independent equality and diversity consultant who co-facilitated the consultation activities

Meetings with Trade Union representatives were also planned as part of the consultation.

**3.6 Key Issues**

A Consultation Report on the Draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity (Appendix 2) has been prepared is structured under the following headings:

- A. Information on the policy consulted upon
- B. Our approach
- C. Consultees' comments
- D. Emerging issues and preliminary recommendations

The following recommendations are put forward for approval:

- The draft Linguistic Diversity Policy should be re-branded as a Language Strategy, outlining a strategic approach to the development of accessible and inclusive communications;
- The current Section 3 (Recent developments) should be amended to take on board consultees' comments and to ensure that the strategy is consistent with current legislation and guidance in Northern Ireland;
- The overarching principles should include further reference to the positive benefits attached to linguistic diversity and bilingualism;

- Terminology used within the strategy should be consistent throughout, avoiding use of labels such as 'minority' wherever possible;
- Separate strands of work should be established under the strategy, for example –Irish Language, Ulster-Scots Language, Sign Language, New Communities' Communications and Language, and Communications and Language Strand for those with a Disability;
- Each strand should be assessed fully to inform appropriate resourcing, for example with dedicated human and material resources that are tailored to the particular needs and priorities of that language community;
- The job description for the post of language officers attached to one or more strands should be precise and reflect on the needs and priorities of the language communities in question. Recruitment of an Irish Language officer is recommended as an identified need for the Irish language community;
- Further engagement with each sector should be used to fine tune the aims and implementation sections of each strand of work to reflect the needs and priorities of the relevant community in any agreed policy;
- Pilots of work identified through the consultation will provide a useful insight in to wider implementation and how it impacts on operational delivery;
- The principles of shared space should be considered in the development of actions within the strategy and its related strands of work;
- Resource implications associated with the strategy should be clarified at an early stage, and action measures put in place that reflect on best value principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- Further analysis of staff training and capacity building needs should be undertaken;
- To take forward these recommendations, an action plan should be put in place with immediate effect, setting out a staged approach to full implementation, with resources made available for each strand in order to provide continued momentum to the emerging strategy.

3.7 Reflecting the recommendations a Language Strategy Action Plan to run from October 2017 to March 2018 (Appendix 3) has been prepared and Members are asked to approve the Action Plan for implementation commencing in October 2017.

**3.8 Next steps**

The Language Strategy Action Plan will commence in October 2017 and run until March 2018. This will allow for alignment with the financial year, with a further one year action plan to run from April 2018 – March 2019 submitted for approval in early 2018.

**3.9 Financial & Resource Implications**

A budget of £25,000 was approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23 June 2017 to support the initial Language Strategy Action Plan, to run from October 2017 - March 2018.

**3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

A draft Equality Screening Report was presented as part of the consultation documentation. An updated screening will be undertaken at appropriate stages in the implementation of the Language Strategy.”

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor O’Neill,

That the Committee agrees to

- note the findings of the consultation on the Draft Linguistic Diversity Policy and approve the recommendations;
- approve the Language Strategy Action Plan October 2017 – March 2018; and
- approve the recruitment of an Irish Language Officer and the commencing of the drawing up of the job description and recruitment process for an additional Officer.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to adopt a linguistic diversity policy and approved the appointment of one Language Officer.

On a vote by show of hands five Members voted for the amendment and eleven against and it was declared lost. The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor O’Neill was put to the meeting when eleven Members for and five against and it was declared carried.

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**Operational Issues**

**Audit and Risk Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 11th September.

**Budget and  
Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of the 14th September.

**North Foreshore Steering Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group of 21st August.

**Area Working Update**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Area Working Group meetings as follows:

West Area Working Group 24th August;  
North Area working Group 29th August; and  
East Area Working Group 5th September.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Active Belfast Limited Board**

The committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 18th September.

**Requests for the use of the City Hall  
and the Provision of Hospitality**

The Committee approved the recommendations in relation to the requests for the use of the City Hall for the provision of hospitality as set out below:

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<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
<b>2017 EVENTS</b>						
SEPHA	18 October 2017	Drinks Reception and Dinner for delegates attending the International Agent Conference for Pharmaceutical Industry.  Attending 35	Yes A & B	Yes - £300	No – organized as a commercial company	Approve £300 charge No hospitality
Belfast Central Mission	24 October 2017	Event with lunch and play at conclusion of Prayer Walk.  Attending 50	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seeker	17 November 2017	Launch of Essential Guide for Refugees and Asylum Seekers including NI History, education, employment, support organizations.  Attending 80	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Community Foundation NI	11 December 2017	Christmas Grant Giving ceremony for ambassadors, donors and staff  Attending 100	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine reception
<b>2018 EVENTS</b>						
SureStart Celebration	25 January 2018	An event to showcase Sure Start projects and celebrate past successes.  Attending 200	Yes D	Yes - £300	No precluded as government body	Approve £300 charge No hospitality
National Deaf Children's Society	13 March 2018	Young Authors and Artists Prize day to celebrate the achievements	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
		of local deaf children.  Attending 160				
Belfast Hills Partnership	14 March 2018	Dinner, showcase and celebration of Belfast Hills venue and thank you for volunteers  Attending 200	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Wine Reception as volunteer dinner	Approve No charge Wine Reception
QUB ISPASS Conference Dinner	3 April 2018	Drinks reception and dinner for delegates attending 3 day Schools of Engineering ISPASS Conference in QUB.  Attending 150	Yes A & B	Yes - £825	Yes – Wine Reception as Dinner event with international delegates	Approve £825 charge Wine reception
5 Nations Health Protection Conference	23 April 2018	Drinks reception and dinner for delegates attending a 2 day Health Protection Conference in Assembly Halls.  Attending 120	Yes A & B	Yes - £300	No – organized as a commercial company	Approve £300 charge No hospitality
Young Enterprise Awards 2018	14 June 2018	Drinks reception, dinner and Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of people across NI who completed YE programmes. showcase projects  Attending 350	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Host Global Forum	22 June 2018	Drinks Reception and dinner – part of a showcase for North American	Yes A & B	No (BCC endorsed showcase)	Yes - Wine Reception as Belfast Showcase event	Approve No charge Wine Reception

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<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
		Visitors attracting future high spend incentive and business meetings to the City.  Attending 240				
NIASW Launch / Exhibition	3 July 2018	Drinks reception and speeches with exhibition. Showcase event for NI social work with exhibitions targeted at international social workers attending a 3 day global conference in Dublin.  Attending 150	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
QUB 9 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Testate Amoebae (ISTA 9) Conference	12 September 2018	Drinks Reception and Dinner as part of large conference hosted by QUB for climate change impacts to peatlands.  Attending 120	Yes A & B	Yes - £300	Yes - Wine Reception as large dinner	Approve Charge £300 Wine Reception
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
Institute of Conservation Conference Dinner	13 June 2019	Formal Drinks Reception and Dinner as part of 4-day conference in Waterfront exploring Conservation.  Attending 300	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	No – organized as a commercial company	Approve No charge Wine Reception
George Telford Memorial Loyal Orange Lodge Centenary Dinner	12 October 2019	Centenary Dinner to celebrate 100 years of the	Yes C & D	No (Community)	Yes - Wine Reception as Centenary Event	Approve No charge Wine Reception



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<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
		Club based at Clifton Street Orange Hall.  Attending 120				
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
British Transplantation Society (BTS) Gala Dinner	5 March 2020	Drinks Reception, Dinner, Awards and Entertainment – Part of 3 day Waterfront based congress of clinicians, surgeons, scientists, nurses and coordinators who work in the field of organ transplantation.  Attending 250	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception, large dinner plus international delegates	Approve No charge Wine Reception

**NILGA Annual Conference and Local Government Awards**

The Committee was advised that the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) annual conference would take place at La Mon House Hotel on 12th October. The Council was represented on NILGA by a number of Members across the political parties. The normal practice was to authorise those representatives to attend the Annual Conference if they so desired.

In addition, later that evening the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards dinner would be held. The Awards set out to showcase excellence in service delivery across the work of the Councils. This year the Council had been nominated in 5 categories. The Democratic Services Manager reported that it would be important for the Council to be represented at the Awards dinner so that, if successful, an elected Member could accept the award.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Council representatives on NILGA at the Annual conference on 12th October and authorised the attendance of the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy and Resources, City Growth and Regeneration and People and Communities (or their nominees), together with the appropriate Officer at the Local Government Award dinner on 12th October.

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**National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region)  
Annual General Meeting**

The Committee was advised that the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region) AGM was being held on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, at 11.00am in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

Following the meeting, there would be two guest speakers:

- Kevin Higgins, Head of Policy at Advice NI who would speak on the introduction of Universal Credit; and
- Maria Anderson, Local Government Commissioner for Standards, who would speak on the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that all Councillors were entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting and, accordingly, authority was being sought to authorise the attendance at the meeting of any Member of the Council who so wished and to consider it as an approved duty.

The Committee granted the authority sought.

**Historic Working Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 7th September.

**Issued Raised in Advance by Members**

**Council Photograph – Alderman Browne to Raise**

The Committee agreed to defer again consideration of this item to allow Alderman Browne who had raised the matter to be in attendance.

Chairperson

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Thursday, 28th September, 2017

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);  
Alderman Convery;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Craig,  
Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McCabe, McDonough-Brown,  
O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;  
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

### **Standing Order 14 – Submission of Minutes**

In accordance with Standing Order 14, the Committee agreed, as the meeting had been held later than seven clear days before the meeting of the Council, that the minutes of the meeting be submitted to the Council on 2nd October for ratification.

### **Approach to Consultation Response to Health Trust Savings Proposals**

The Committee was reminded that the Department of Health had requested that the Health Trusts collectively find £70 million savings out of this year's budget. On 24th August, each of the Trusts had commenced a consultation exercise on their proposals for how they would meet the required savings target. The consultation process on the Health Trust Savings Proposals would close on 5th October, 2017.

Accordingly, the Committee was being asked to consider whether it wished to make a Council response to the consultations or that the matter be left to the Political Parties to respond individually. It was pointed out that, if the Committee were minded to agree to the submission of a Council response, it could not be approved by the Committee prior to the submission date. However, any such response would be submitted with the caveat that it would be subject to future Committee approval and Council ratification.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed to submit a Council response to the consultation but that any such response should have full agreement of the Party Leaders before submission.

**European Capital of Culture – Next Steps**

The Committee considered the following report which provided an update on the development of the bid for UK designated city for European Capital of Culture in 2023:

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

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the development of the bid for UK designated city for European Capital of Culture in 2023 (ECoC2023), and to seek consideration and endorsement on a number of key issues to enable the effective Phase I submission by 27 October 2017.

- 1.2 This paper, its contents and recommendations are to be considered in conjunction with a parallel report and presentation on the emerging bid themes and cultural programme at the meeting on September 28th 2017 in restricted business due to the competitive and sensitive nature of these elements of the bid process at this stage. As agreed at SP&R on 22nd September this paper will not be eligible for call-in due to the urgency of the matter.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- (i) Approve the concept, themes and emerging cultural programme etc as set out in this paper and parallel paper and presentation in closed business as a basis for the submission of the final bid documents by the deadline of October 27th.
- (ii) Endorse the proposal that Belfast assumes the role of Lead City/Candidate City ‘in partnership with Derry and the surrounding area’ to develop and deliver this major transformational opportunity for this place and that this strong, innovative and collaborative approach is underpinned by the key partnership principles set out in Sections 3.39 - 3.44 of this report in relation to programming, marketing and communications, finance and resources and management and governance.
- (iii) Budget Commitment – Commit in principle to a £6.5m contribution towards an overall £55m financial strategy to deliver a European Capital of Culture 2023 programme of scale with spend profiled over a 5-year period. This will be subject to a detailed due diligence and business case being brought forward, with affordability likely to be

supported through a small rate supported element and the prioritisation of a proportion of in-year budget reallocations into a specified fund for European Capital of Culture.

- (iv) Agree that the officer team continues to finalise the detailed and technical content of the Phase I framework (bid book) submission, subject to discussion and input from Members at meeting on 28 September, for submission to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sports (DCMS) by 27 October 2017 deadline as the part of the two staged bid process.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council have been progressing a bid for the much coveted award of European Capital of Culture 2023. This is a once in a generation transformational opportunity for both cities and the wider region to promote and showcase the cultural and creative aspects of our place as well as delivering many wider social and economic benefits to all our citizens.

#### **Criteria**

All bids must demonstrate they meet six criteria:

- Contribution to the long term strategies
- European dimension
- Cultural and artistic control
- Capacity to deliver
- Outreach
- Management (inc finance)

It must be stressed that the criteria will be strictly applied in phase 1 of the bidding process. The European dimension is very much a prominent criterion. So the bid needs to look outward to Europe and we must demonstrate how the theme and the programme will assist other European cities and regions address similar issues. 70% of the programming must have a European dimension, competition is very strong with the four other cities in the UK. Therefore, our bid must demonstrate that we meet the rules, the criteria, the vision and that we have the capacity to deliver.

#### **What are the benefits?**

- 3.2 Previous experience shows that participating and/or securing the European Capital of Culture title can act as a catalyst in

supporting the social, economic and physical regeneration of successful cities and their wider region.

- 3.3 We believe that a successful bid would help deliver the positive outcomes set out in our respective Strategic Growth Plans by contributing to:
- A strong competitive economy;
  - A cultural destination of choice;
  - A better skilled and educated workforce;
  - Connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure
  - A shared, equal and safe community;
  - Long, healthy and fulfilling lives; and
  - Our young people having the best start in life.
- 3.4 There are also real and significant social and cultural benefits for people living not just in both cities but across Northern Ireland. A successful bid would help connect people to opportunities; create positive changes in attitudes and perceptions; enhance civic engagement and participation; improve social inclusion and promote the richness and diversity of our cultures.
- 3.5 Our aim is to develop a programme which will help us realise long lasting economic and social benefits for our citizens especially at a time when we prepare to leave the European Union. In particular, we want to achieve significant social impact in terms of belonging and identity and we recognise that this needs to happen across the two cities and the surrounding areas if it is going to be significant and transformational with a lasting legacy. The only way to do this at scale is by using the two main cities to drive this change through a cultural transformation. We acknowledge that neither city can achieve this on its own.
- 3.6 Our respective cities are the population, economic and cultural centres for all of Northern Ireland but also the places where segregation, deep generational divisions and post conflict tensions are still most evident and hence our cultural programme, through ECOC2023, have the greatest potential for driving transformation across the region generally and within our cities, in particular.
- 3.7 European Capital of Culture 2023 will provide us with an opportunity to promote both cities and our surrounding areas as vibrant places, positioned on the edge of the European Union but which display a rich and diverse European cultural heritage. As a post conflict society, we are emerging away from our difficult past towards a shared place with an outward facing vision and hopeful ambitions for our future.

**3.8 What is the timeline & process for Bid submission?**

Members will be aware that ECOC2023 bid is a two staged process with the initial key milestone being the Phase 1 Bid Book submission to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sports (DCMS) by 27 October 2017. This first phase submission will take account of discussions and input from elected Members and reflects the extensive engagement processes undertaken to date with citizens and stakeholder groups.

**3.9** The submission of Phase 1 will be led by the Civic Dignitaries of both Cities (i.e. Lord Mayor of Belfast City Council and Mayor of Derry and Strabane District Council). It is proposed that a civic event will be held across both cities at a similar time to recognise the significance of the submission being made and showcase the civic energy and support behind the bid.

**3.10** Following bid submission, a formal presentation by each candidate will take place in late November 2017 and will be scrutinised by a panel of 12 National and European experts. A decision of which bids are successful to move to Phase 2 is likely to be confirmed in December 2017, with successful cities given a further 7 or 8 months to further develop and refine the bid proposition and emerging cultural programme with a final submission likely to be in June 2018 (date to be confirmed by DCMS).

**3.11** Active engagement and involvement will continue with Members, citizens and other stakeholder groups, including those who may be hard to reach and/or feel marginalised, to help further refine and shape the Phase 2 bid proposition and emerging programme of activities. It is important that we collectively enable and support greater levels of participation, engender a sense of ownership and ensure maximum benefit.

**3.12 Engagement**

Two focused and interactive workshop sessions have been held with elected Members (i.e. 19 June 2017 and 12 September 2017) which provided a forum to help inform and shape the emerging concept, themes and initial proposals around the cultural programme as well as the approach to communications and engagement.

**3.13** To date the bid has engaged with over 10,000 people across both cities. This has been achieved through organised sessions at events throughout the summer alongside a

programme of tailored workshops. Extensive engagement has also taken place through Council's existing schemes. An online platform has also been established.

**3.14** The engagement during stage one has largely focussed on four strands:

- (i)** One to one engagement with local citizens
- (ii)** Facilitated workshops with interest groups
- (iii)** Sessions with representative and voluntary organisations
- (iv)** Deep dive engagement activity with targeted groups including Section 75 groups.

**3.15** The responses and output from this engagement has directly shaped the overall theme and brand emerging for the bid. This theme needs to be authentic to the cities as well as having strong relevance for Europe. The bid is on target to have engaged with 10,000 citizens by the submission date of 27 October 2017.

**3.16** Should the bid be shortlisted to stage 2 this engagement will continue with opportunities for direct participation through a series of pathfinder projects which will help further develop and refine our concept, themes and emerging cultural programme of activities.

**3.17** A Project Steering Group comprising of central government departments, statutory agencies and key city stakeholders has been established which is supportive and helping progress the submission of a bid.

We are also engaging with the business sector across both cities which recognises the significance and potential benefits of a European Capital of Culture designation. Two further business engagement events is to take place on

- Belfast - Friday 29 September @ 8.15-9.45am in The MAC
- Derry~Londonderry – Tues 3rd Oct @ 8.15am-9.45am in Playhouse Theatre and Arts Centre

**3.18** Further awareness of the bid has also been achieved through marketing and communications activities including establishment of an online platform (<http://weare2023.eu/>) and interactive social and online media activity. This activity will continue to increase and intensify over the coming months to help build momentum in the run up to the submission deadline.



**Emerging Concept and Themes**

- 3.19 Our engagement so far has taken place with over 10,000 citizens across both our cities and started out by focusing on 2 simple questions – what makes you happy and what keeps you awake at night. A trend began to emerge, as for the majority of people, the source of happiness and anxiety had the same roots in family and a sense of ‘home’. In order to develop and test this emerging theme, we decided to ask a third question: what does home mean to you? We discovered that home means many different things – it involves deep connections to other people, feeling respected and respecting others, it’s a source of comfort and security and for many it’s an emotional connection. The energy from our engagement placed people and a sense of belonging firmly at the centre of what it means to be @home in Northern Ireland. We can say with assurance that the theme for our bid has been authentically sourced from what the citizens of both our cities told us.
- 3.20 We will continue to test, refine and develop this theme further with our citizens and through cultural location based projects discover new declarations of what being @home means within a local, regional, European and global context, particularly in a post conflict setting on the periphery of Europe and our programme will provide us with the space and places to explore this concept of @home further.

**Cultural Programme**

- 3.21 As well as the civic engagement outlined above the bid team has also delivered a series of events targeting the wider cultural and creative sector to help garner support and facilitate input into the emerging cultural programme. This has included:
- Information sessions
  - 6 thematic workshops
  - 4 Big Ideas sessions
- 3.22 These sessions have engaged with over 300 people working across the arts, heritage, sport, science and the creative industries.
- 3.23 A creative reference group has been established to include 4 local representatives from both cities. These members were selected following a nomination and application process. This group also includes three international programmers who have previous experience of either developing a bid or delivering a successful European Capital of Culture.

- 3.24** At stage one a number of indicative projects will be presented as part of the bid. In order to select these projects three strands of programme development are in place. This includes:
- (i) Open Call:** opportunity for anyone to submit projects ideas
  - (ii) Commission:** the identification of a number of flagship project ideas based on the themes emerging from the engagement process. A formal commissioning process would take place at subsequent stages.
  - (iii) Curate:** the group will identify specific gaps in the programme and make connections with smaller projects from the open call.
- 3.25** Each strand of the cultural programme will have a physical, psychological and social dimension which relates to common European themes. All strands include disruptive and transformative elements which re-vision what it means to be 'at home' in 2023.
- 3.26** The open call closed on 6 September 2017 with over 125 project proposals received. All ideas will be retained for stage 2, however, an initial selection will be presented at stage one with further development and refinement of cultural programme proposals during stage 2.
- 3.27** The Creative Reference Group has been extremely impressed by the standard, creativity and relevance of the submissions received to date in terms of synergies with the emerging concept & themes and connection to citizens, artists, cultural organisations and European dimension.
- 3.28** It is anticipated that the cultural programme will comprise of 5 flagship projects and a programme of 30 smaller scale proposals. Each strand of the cultural programme will have a physical, psychological and social dimension which relates to common European themes. All strands include disruptive and transformative elements which re-vision what it means to be 'at home' in 2023.
- 3.29** Due to the competitive nature of the competition, a detailed update and presentation on the early stage proposals emerging from this process will be presented and discussed with Members at the parallel meeting on 28 September.

**Capacity To Deliver**

- 3.30 As part of the bidding process we have assessed our capacity to deliver a European Capital of Culture programme and also examined our accommodation capacity and our transport links. We will build on our existing cultural infrastructure and develop the capacity of our cultural partners to deliver our year long cultural programme. With plans to grow our accommodation sector (we will have sufficient accommodation to meet the additional demand that this year will create.

**Outreach**

- 3.31 Formal preparation for our bid began through the intensive process of community planning which was rolled out across Northern Ireland in 2015. Through this process, citizens sent a strong message culture, arts and heritage were at the heart of citizens' lives and the cornerstone of thriving cities.
- 3.32 Currently more than 10,000 citizens have told us what home means to them and we have exceeded our original target of 10,000 engagements by the submission of the Stage 1 bid book. Engagement has been through a variety of means but mainly in places where there are people – train and bus stations, community centres, summer schemes, at festivals and key events, parks and in shopping centres. In recent weeks we have been concentrating on engagement with young people and individuals from 'harder to reach groups'.

**Cultural Strategy**

- 3.33 The requirement to have a cultural strategy in place within both cities is a key consideration within the bid book. Both cities are progressing their respective cultural strategies as well as looking at the potential of a joint cultural strategy which will ensure that the cultural activities are sustained beyond the European Capital of Culture year and demonstrates that ECOC is an action within a longer term strategy for each city. A key aspect of this will be the monitoring and evaluation of the year long programme. Work is ongoing with a number of partners to put in place a robust framework that will ensure that social, economic and cultural impacts can be monitored and evaluated in the lead up to, during and after 2023.

**European Dimension**

- 3.34 Given that this is a bid for European Capital of Culture over 70% of the cultural programme must have a "European Dimension". Projects and programmes within the ECOC2023

programme must promote the cultural diversity of Europe, intercultural and greater mutual understanding between European citizens; feature European artists, cooperation with operators or cities, heritage and history, as well as European integration and current European themes; and include a strategy to attract the interest of a broad European and international public.

**What are the key considerations?**

**Candidate City and Partnership Principles**

- 3.35** While bids which work with neighbouring cities or regions are now common practice and indeed welcome, the title can be awarded to one city only. Under the rules, which are non-negotiable, one city must take the lead and if successful the lead city will hold the title of European Capital of Culture. The proposed programme and its benefits may however be dispersed across the much wider area.
- 3.36** In the partnership between Belfast and Derry/Londonderry it is the considered opinion of the European external advisors to the process that the strongest proposition is one where Belfast assumes the lead city role primarily due to the relative scale of its cultural and tourism infrastructure, facilities and national and international connectivity.
- 3.37** In this context, Belfast would go forward in the bid and thereafter as lead/candidate city “in partnership with Derry and the surrounding area”. On this basis it is viewed that the bid will be highly competitive with the other candidate cities and Belfast and Derry will work together to maximise the opportunity to bring home the prize.
- 3.38** In such a relationship, the following partnership principles are however proposed to reflect the joint working between both cities and their cultural partners:-
- 3.39** \* Development of a joint cultural programme reflective of the two cities and surrounding areas;
- 3.40** \* This joint cultural programme to include key flagship projects broadly balanced across the two cities in terms of scale and audience, European and international appeal and significance, cost, benefits and legacy potential;
- 3.41** \* Other key projects across the cultural programme to be curated, developed and delivered in either city or across the two cities through an agreed and integrated approach promoting collaborations between artists, cultural

organisations and venues across the cities, surrounding areas and Europe;

- 3.42 \* Representation of both cities in all aspects of marketing, promotion and communications including development and use of joint branding as agreed by both councils;
- 3.43 \* Allocation of financial resources from both councils for the core projects will to be broadly equal but can be added to by either city when developing the cultural programmes (ref section 4). This will sit alongside all other sources of funding, sponsorship, prizes etc. secured, which will be allocated to an overall revenue budget to support the development and delivery of the cultural programme in accordance with the above principles and management and governance considerations below
- 3.44 \* All management and governance arrangements in relation to the bid and delivery of the project if successful to be jointly agreed and developed through a process of co-design and co-location.
- 3.45 All of the above partnership principles to be further developed under a joint memorandum of understanding between both councils to be agreed in due course.

#### **Branding**

- 3.46 Members will be aware that a specific approach and style of branding based around the concept “WeAre2023 - European Capital of Culture Candidate” has been used to date to raise awareness, profile and support engagement related activity in relation to the Phase 1 bid development process. McCadden Design has been exploring more specific brand options, taking account of the emerging concept and themes and which will be included on the bid submission and will be rolled out as part of Phase 2 bidding process.
- 3.47 Members will be presented with the emerging brand concept at the meeting on 28 September. This brand will have a dual function; initially as a visual identity it will be incorporated into the Stage 1 book and after further developmental work to be approval by Members it will drive our bidding campaign should we be successful at Stage 1 and progress to Stage 2. The brand and brand toolkit will be developed in line with the relevant partnership principles as set out in the section above.

**Governance and Management Arrangements**

- 3.48 Work is currently underway to develop options in relation to the potential special purpose vehicle and governance arrangements for the delivery of the European Capital Programme. This work is drawing upon best practice models adopted by previous ECOCs as well as lessons learnt from local approaches including UK Capital of Culture 2013 and Tall Ships, etc. Emerging principles are likely to include that it is a separate standalone company, preferably jointly owned and with relationships to NI Government, the cultural sector and citizens.
- 3.49 Any emerging Governance proposals will be further tested and further developed as part of the Phase 2 bidding process and will align to the key partnership principles set out in the section above.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.50 At stage one of the bidding process it is important to demonstrate the viability of the bid and the capacity of the region to deliver a programme of the required scale including an indicative commitment towards an overall funding model. Further and specific commitment to financial support will be necessary at stage 2 and will be supported by a detailed business case and funding strategy. It is important to recognise that no project of this scale could ever be delivered without the support of government and other key partners.
- 3.51 Being designated European Capital of Culture provides a unique opportunity to promote and showcase the cultural and creative aspects of our cities and surrounding areas and will act as a catalyst to support the social, economic and physical regeneration for the region, supporting investment and job creation, raising the international profile of Northern Ireland and boosting tourism.
- 3.52 Appendix 1 attached provides an outline summary of the significant economic, social and physical benefits experienced by other European Capital of Culture Cities. This includes Liverpool 2008 which experienced, and continues benefit from, £745m direct spend in Liverpool and wider region, £4Bn leverage in infrastructural investment, 34% growth in visitors since 2007, and repositioning Liverpool at an international scale as a preferred destination to visit, invest, work and live. Galway has projected that its successful 2020 designation will create €500m of investment and 5,000 new jobs in the next five years, increasing visitor numbers by 40%

in 2020 and increasing business start-ups by 15% up until 2025.

- 3.53 A provisional operating budget of £55m (including a £6.5m commitment from both councils - amounting to 21%) is being proposed for the submission at stage 1. This has been benchmarked against spend by other cities who have bid for the designation and takes account of the standard practice adopted whereby around £110 per head of capita is allocated. As the following table shows it is suggested that this be made up of a variety of funding streams with the profiling of spend over a 6-year period (2019–2024).
- 3.54 A project of this scale has the requirement for multiple partners to help finance the overall commitment. The Irish cities for the 2020 competition had the comfort of knowing the winning city would receive 15m euro from the Irish Government. Galway has developed very impressive financial interventions with the private sector including 1% business rate increase and a specially commission beer by Diageo.
- 3.55 The current position in relation to emerging proposals and discussions around key funding streams is set out below.
- (i) Council contribution – it is proposed that both councils commit in principle to a £6.5m contribution towards an overall £55m financial strategy to deliver a European Capital of Culture 2023 programme of scale with spend profiled over a 5-year period. This will be subject to a detailed due diligence and business case being brought forward, with affordability secured through a small rate supported element and the prioritisation of a proportion of in-year budget reallocations into a specified fund for European Capital of Culture 2023.
  - (ii) Government – work is underway to secure a joint letter of support from the main NI Executive Party Group Leaders for the Bid including a commitment to work with the councils to progress a detailed business case to underpin the formal request for funding from NI Executive as part of Phase 2. Work is already underway with the Department of Communities and other stakeholders to develop what is required and timescales around such a business case.  
  
Work is also underway with the competing UK candidate cities, including Leeds, Dundee, to make a joint request to DCMS to confirm that funding will be allocated to the successful city to support delivery of European Capital of Culture 2023.
  - (iii) Private Sector – a fundraising strategy is currently being developed and will be brought back to a future meetings

of the Committee as part of the phase 2 process. This will include, but not limited to direct sponsorship from private sector as well as considering, in liaison with relevant partners, new innovative mechanisms to develop and embed a longer-term funding legacy to support cultural related activity across both cities. Whilst no firm recommendations are being made at this stage, the type of opportunities under consideration to support both the delivery of the programme as well as creating a long-term legacy include, for example, exploring the potential option and appetite for introducing 2023 cultural hotel bed night tax etc.

To help further develop our thinking and support around emerging options, a business leadership forum is being established.

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**3.56 In advance of stage 2 the engagement plan will be equality screened and any gaps addressed. The final programme and associated strategies will also be equality screened.”**

The Committee adopted recommendations (ii), (iii) and (iv) as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report and noted that recommendation (i) would be dealt with later in the meeting when the Committee would be considering the report on Concepts and Themes.

The Committee noted that, in accordance with its decision of 22nd September, due to the urgency of the matter, these decisions would not be subject to call-in.

#### **Restricted Items**

#### **The Information contained in the following three reports 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 of these items as, due to the nature of the items, that there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42 (4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

#### **European Capital of Culture Programme – Concept and Themes**

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee’s consideration a report on the core concept and programme to be presented in the bid book for the UK designation of European Capital of Culture 2023.

With the assistance of visual aids, the Chief Executive reviewed the criteria for the bid, the emerging concept and themes, the developing cultural programme, the emerging flagships and the next steps.



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After discussion, the Committee approved the outline concept and programme and that the bid book could be submitted on that basis.

The Committee noted that, in accordance with its decision of 22nd September, due to the urgency of the matter, these decisions would not be subject to call-in.

**Decision of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's  
Planning Committee on 21st August, 2017**

The Committee considered a report which provided details of a recent decision which had been taken by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to grant planning permission for TK Maxx at Drumkeen Retail Park. The application had been submitted by Drumkeen Holdings Ltd to vary conditions 1 and 2 of its planning permission for the Retail Park. Approval had been granted to allow for the construction of an internal mezzanine and the sale of mixed use comparison goods with no more than 75% of the net sales area used for the sale of clothing, footwear and fashion accessories. Conditions 1 and 2 had restricted the use of these units to bulky goods. Essentially, the application would allow the unrestricted sale of retail goods as defined in Class A1 of the Planning Use Classes (NI) Order 2015.

The City Solicitor advised that the application breached Policy R4 of the draft BMAP, which related to Arterial Routes and Local Centres, and highlighted the potential impact such an application could have on Belfast City Centre.

Moved by Councillor Attwood,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to authorise the City Solicitor to undertake, on behalf of the Council, judicial review proceedings to challenge the decision.

On a vote by show of hands, eleven Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

The Committee agreed further that, due to the urgency of the matter, the decision would not be subject to call-in.

**Application for the Grant of an Entertainments  
Licence – Limelight Belfast Ltd., former Belfast  
Telegraph Building, Royal Avenue**

(Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager, and Mr. P. Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered an application for the grant of an Entertainments Licence by Limelight Belfast Ltd. for the former Belfast Telegraph Building in Royal Avenue.

In response to a number of questions, the Committee was advised that the application for an entertainments licence had been submitted on 28th August and the

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statutory consultation period had expired on 26th September and no objections to the application had been received. The company had, during that time, organised a sell-out event at the venue which was to be held on Saturday, 30th September. However, there was an issue in so far as planning permission had not yet been granted for change of use for the building. It was pointed out also that applications of this nature were normally dealt with under the Council's Scheme of Delegation but it was felt that it would be prudent to place the application before the Committee for consideration and decision, given the Council's current interest in the building.

In response to a further question, the Committee was advised that the building met all Health and Safety conditions and technical requirements for the holding of an entertainments licence.

Several Members expressed concern in relation to how the application was being dealt with. It was pointed out that the Council had a quasi-judicial Licencing Committee which had delegated authority from the Council to deal with such applications and the application should have been placed before that Committee.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Attwood,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the Committee agrees to grant an Entertainments Licence to Limelight Belfast Ltd. to hold a one-off event in the former Belfast Telegraph Building, Royal Avenue on Saturday, 30th September.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

Chairperson

## People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 12th September, 2017

### MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Rodgers, McCoubrey and McKee; and  
Councillors Armitage, Austin, Beattie, Copeland, Corr,  
Garrett, Heading, Lyons, Magennis, McCabe, McCusker,  
Newton, Milne, Nicholl and McReynolds.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Corr Johnston.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the special meeting of 2nd August and the meeting of 8th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th September.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Item Withdrawn from Agenda - Partner Agreements Quarterly Update**

The Committee noted that the above item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

#### **Presentation**

##### **Contact - Suicide Prevention Bill**

The Chairperson advised the Members that representatives from Contact were in attendance to present to the Committee on the proposed Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Bill. Mr. Fergus Cumiskey, Chief Executive, and Mrs. Sharon Curran, Head of Communications and Public Relations, were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Cumiskey commenced by thanking the Committee for the opportunity to present. He advised that Contact was a charity specialising in crisis counselling and suicide prevention. Its vision was to have a 'society free from suicide' and its mission was 'getting you through the most difficult times'. Mr Cumiskey then provided the Members with an overview of the work undertaken by Contact in respect of suicide prevention. He advised that Contact provided a free-phone regional Lifeline crisis

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response helpline and wraparound counselling service, which had been launched in 2006 after a spate of suicides amongst young people in north and west Belfast. This was the first expenditure of the suicide prevention strategy for Northern Ireland and, to date, 50% of the budget had been used to fund the Lifeline service.

Mr. Cumiskey emphasised that suicide was an issue that impacted on the whole of Northern Ireland and not just specific areas and as such the work around suicide prevention needed to involve everyone from all sectors, including the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors. He stated that the issue that he specifically wanted to highlight to the Committee was the proposed introduction of a NI Suicide Prevention Bill.

The representative outlined the following critical assumptions of the NI Suicide Prevention Bill:

- accepted that suicide was a preventable harm (World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Suicide Report 2014);
- regarded clinical engagement with patient family and friends as an essential protective safety factor for suicide prevention, in every case;
- following patient suicide, best practice lessons learned from critical incident review demonstrated family engagement as an important protective factor against future suicide; and
- all references to engage family included family and friends; references to clinician included clinician/team; patient, service user and client were all interchangeable terms.

Taking the above factors into consideration, Mr. Cumiskey then proceeded to outline the context of the proposal under the following headings:

- Individual Clinical Duty of Candour;
- Corporate Duty of Candour;
- Clinical Duty of Competence; and
- Duty to Cooperate.

The representative explained that he wished to use his attendance at this meeting to raise the profile for the need for a NI Suicide Prevention Bill and advised that further information on the work of Contact or on the Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Bill was available by visiting the Contact website at [www.contactni.com](http://www.contactni.com).

The representative then answered a number of queries, following which the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their invaluable work around suicide prevention throughout Northern Ireland and they left the meeting.

**Matters referred back from Council/Notices of Motion**

**Notice of Motion - Dog-Friendly Badging Scheme**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd July, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McDonough-Brown and seconded by Councillor McVeigh, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council agree to develop and introduce an opt-in badging scheme which indicates which premises in Belfast are dog-friendly, so that customers can know where dogs are welcome in the City.”

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor McDonough-Brown addressed the Committee. He stated that he would welcome the introduction of a badging scheme that would indicate which premises in Belfast were dog-friendly establishments, this would be an opt in scheme, therefore, there would be no pressure on owners to participate if they did not wish to do so.

The Committee agreed to investigate the introduction of an opt-in badging scheme which would indicate which premises in Belfast were dog-friendly and noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

**Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre - Proposed Possession**

The Committee agreed to refer consideration of this matter to the North Area Working Group and noted that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee.

**Committee/Strategic Issues**

**Waste Collection Update**

The Committee considered the following report|:

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

**1.1 To provide Members with a monthly update, on actions which have been introduced to improve the waste collection service, following the report presented to Members at 8 August 2017 Committee meeting.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note:**

- **The processes and actions which have been implemented to improve the performance of the waste**

collection service and additional planned activities to further enhance service performance.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**Customer Call Handling and Management Interventions**

**3.1** It was evidenced in last month's report, that there had been a significant growth in calls coming into the Council's Customer Contact Centre regarding waste collections and whilst many of these were positive in nature, as they were related to the successful new '*No Food in Waste Bin*' initiative, the customer experience was not at the level we would have expected. To provide a context to this, from the 17 July to 25 August 2017, the Customer Contact Centre received 19,841 telephone calls and voice mails. A weekly breakdown of these calls and voice mails is available on Mod.gov - Customer Contact Centre Telephone Calls and Voice Mails 17 July 2017 to 25 August 2017.

**3.2** Given the large volume of customer calls in relation to waste collection, being received by the Customer Contact Centre in July, several actions have been introduced to improve the waste collection service as follows:

- A review was undertaken to examine the processes involved in handling customer enquiries. This review considered the activities carried out from the call being received, the actions taken to deal with the customer enquiry, through to closure of the service request.
- This review allowed daily management information reports to be generated, which enabled targeted, timely operations to be put in place to deal with requests for service in relation to missed bins and missed assisted lifts.
- Following this, more detailed daily management information reports, by assistant manager and operational squad, were produced. This information clearly identified waste collection routes that were presenting issues following which accountability processes were introduced to improve communication between assistant managers and squads that has supported the resolution of ongoing difficulties.
- A supervisor log sheet was introduced, which identified all actions to be completed prior to the service request being closed down. This has allowed

increased focus on performance of waste collection management and squads.

- The daily management information reports also highlighted access issues that had not previously been identified. As a result and in consultation with residents, increased attention has been focused on dealing with access issues, some of which have been resolved, whilst other more complex accessibility problems remain work in progress, to achieve long term solutions.
- A regular communications process has been developed with the waste collection management team and trade unions to ensure that focus is directed at operational outcomes.

- 3.3 During week ending 21 July a high volume of calls was directed into the Customer Contact Centre and, due to the nature of the customer enquiries, call durations were of considerable length. This resulted in call operators being occupied for longer periods of time than normal and those calls which were unable to be answered were abandoned or diverted to the voice mail system. Unfortunately, given the substantial calls being diverted to voice mail a system failure occurred, resulting in the voice mail service crashing. In view of this, no voice mail data was recorded during this week however this technical issue was resolved within a few days as calls levels reduced.
- 3.4 During week ending 28 July, again a significant number of calls and abandoned calls were recorded however as the number of calls being diverted to voice mail was less than the previous week, the voice mail system was maintained and voice mail data was recorded during this period. At this point, immediate corrective action was taken and the Customer Contact Centre resources were realigned to support the increased demand in relation to call handling. This resulted in an instant improvement for customers in relation to call experience.
- 3.5 As a result of management intervention and correction actions taken, we now see that during the period 31 July to 25 August, the data illustrates a continuous downward trend in the number of calls received and the number of abandoned calls. At its highest level, the percentage of abandoned calls was 22.29% of all calls received during week ending 28 July. As at 25 August, the percentage of abandoned calls had reduced to 1.29% as a result of pre-emptive actions introduced. This downward trend is clearly demonstrated in the graph available of mod.gov. Furthermore, from 10 August,

no calls were diverted to voice mail, further validating that waste collection calls for service requests were reducing and processes and procedures introduced from 24 July 2017, to proactively improve performance, were having a positive impact.

- 3.6 Following trend analysis of the Customer Contact Centre call data, calls received into the Customer Contact Centre from 14 August onwards are comparable to typical call levels recorded in previous years.
- 3.7 It is recognised that, issues experienced as a result of the introduction of route optimisation, which would have been expected to bed in by now, however remain ongoing. In order to also provide an independent view on the impact of route optimisation, Resource Futures was contracted by Belfast City Council to review the council's waste collection services in spring 2017, in order to assess the potential causes of the crews being unable to complete their allocated rounds and identify potential solutions that could be implemented to resolve these issues. The study findings indicated that the route optimisation project had been successful in achieving the expected outcomes, that is, to design waste collection routes in the most efficient way. The study did however highlight that the level of success had been limited, primarily by three key areas of concern in relation to squad performance and productivity and performance management.
- 3.8 The report has identified recommendations which are currently being assessed in consultation with staff and trade unions. These include proposed minor adjustments to existing routes.
- 3.9 An Action Plan is in the process of being developed which will include the recommendations from the independent study together with processes and procedures to deal with productivity and performance issues. Council's AGRS has been asked to undertake an assessment of the waste collection service. The recommendations of this assessment will also be included in the Action Plan. The Action Plan will be presented to Committee in October's waste collection Committee update report.
- 3.10 In terms of waste treatment / disposal arising from introducing route optimization and the food waste campaign, in the first quarter the Council increased its recycling / composting rate by almost 1,500 tonnes. The majority of which can be linked to the food waste campaign which is



hoped will lead to a year end improvement in the recycling rate.

### **3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

At this time there are no financial or resource implications associated with this report. Any future route optimisation rebalancing exercises and asset implications arising from the implementation of the Waste Framework may however result in financial and resource implications at a future date.

### **3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

At this time there are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report. Any future route optimisation rebalancing exercises and asset implications arising from the implementation of the Waste Framework may however result in financial and resource implications at a future date.”

A Member welcomed the progress that had been made and asked that thanks be conveyed to the two members of staff who were overseeing the improvements to the service.

At the request of a Member, officers agreed to investigate whether there was a shortage of food waste bags and to update the Member directly.

The Committee noted the update provided.

## **Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group Minutes**

The Director advised that, at the meetings of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group held on 3rd August and 6th September, the following key issues had been considered:

- update on the business case of the crematorium development;
- update on the study visit to crematoria in Scotland;
- update on the permanent memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery;
- City Cemetery - update on concerns regarding anti-social behaviour;
- update in relation to the provision of memorial trees at the Roselawn site;
- update on the implementation of the memorial management policy; and
- City of Belfast Crematorium – policy statement for infant cremation;

A Member advised that some of the recent meetings had been poorly attended and, given the importance of many of the issues being discussed, he encouraged greater cross Party attendance at the forthcoming meetings.

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The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 3rd August and 6th September.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Installation of Water Drinking Fountain - Ormeau Park**

The Committee was advised that the Council had received a request from users of the Ormeau Park asking the Council to install an additional water drinking fountain (to include a low drinker to facilitate dogs). The Assistant Director advised that there was currently one functioning drinking fountain that was located near to the Ravenhill road end of the Ormeau Park but no drinking fountains were available at the Ormeau road end of the park.

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that, in 2012, the Council had agreed to install water fountains within a number of parks throughout the City as part of a pilot scheme. The Green Flag standard encouraged the provision of drinking fountains near sports facilities and playgrounds and, in a wider context, they were being encouraged to try and reduce plastic water bottle consumption and the subsequent waste.

The officer detailed that the estimated cost of a drinking fountain and its installation, including connection to the mains water supply, would be £7,250.

Following a query, the officer confirmed that unit would be regularly maintained and it was estimated that this would annually cost in the region of £1000.

The Committee approved the installation of an additional drinking fountain in the Ormeau Park.

**Suffolk FC proposal to erect a Spectators Stand**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Committee that the Council has received a request from Suffolk Football Club to seek permission to erect a modular 100 seat spectator stand within the Suffolk Playing Fields.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the report and to agree that the Council agree to a licence agreement with the Club, subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to permit to install the proposed stand, this will be**

subject to the club securing the necessary funding, securing the necessary statutory approval including planning consent and providing adequate insurance cover. The Licence will also run co-terminously with the existing Facilities Management Agreement.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1** Suffolk Football Club currently operate under a 7 year Facilities Management Agreement as agreed by the former Parks and Leisure committee at its meeting on 11 April 2011. This agreement is scheduled to terminate in July 2019. Members will note that the club had secured funding to install drainage on the pitch and bring it back in to use.

**3.2** The Club has aspirations to gain promotion to higher leagues and within this context have sought funding through the Alpha Programme to provide the 100 seat spectator stand which will upgrade the facility and improve the spectator experience. The Club has advised that:

- The cost of the proposed works is £40,500 (excluding VAT), the cost will be met through funding from the Alpha Programme and the Club;
- The preferred location was available on mod.gov;
- It will own the structure and will be responsible for its maintenance, upkeep, management and insurance cover;
- It will be responsible for securing planning consent and other statutory approvals as necessary and will undertake the project management of the installation.

**3.3** The Club has asked that the Council consider granting consent, in the form of a licence to use, to enable the installation of the structure on Council land, subject to securing funding and securing the necessary statutory approvals including planning.

**3.4** The proposed location of stand has no impact on the operation of the pitch and does not infringe on the enjoyment of the site. This is a piece of land which backs on to the former primary school site and is largely unused. The proposal has no cost implications for the Council and the Council has in the past looked sympathetically on proposals from Clubs seeking to invest in and enhance the facilities.

**3.5 Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial implications.

### **3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no implications.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report and also agreed that a list of the Council’s Football pitches, in each area of the City, would be submitted to the relevant Area Working Group. It was further agreed that any issues that might be preventing any of the pitches being used would be highlighted.

## **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

### **Financial Reporting - Quarter 1, 2017 – 2018**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services 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. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 1 position for the Committee showed an under-spend of 561k. (2.8%), with the forecast year end position being an under-spend of £455k (0.6%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee noted the contents of the Quarter 1 financial update.

## **Operational Issues**

### **Street Naming**

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Montpelier Park, off Malone Road, BT9.

### **Support for Boxing Clubs**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee outlining the level of support being provided within the Boxing Strategy to those clubs in the City which were affiliated to the Northern Ireland Boxing Association.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Consider the content of the report.**

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1** Belfast City Council agreed an Amateur Boxing Strategy for the city for the period 2012 – 2022. Council agreed a budget of £200,000 per annum across the first three years of strategy delivery. A steering group was established made up of representatives from Belfast City Council, County Antrim Boxing, Ulster Boxing Council, Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) and Sport Northern Ireland.
- 3.2** The strategy action plan is structured with five thematic areas; coach education, club support, events, pathways and governance. To assist with the development of pathways into the sport for people under-represented in the sport, two Community Coaches were recruited to drive participation in schools and community settings. A Sports Development Officer was recruited to enhance the club support and governance themes by working directly with potential clubs, new clubs and existing clubs with governance and development planning. Specific budgets were allocated to provide established clubs with coach education and events.
- 3.3** Contact with boxing clubs for baseline assessments and access to support through the strategy are through the IABA's list of affiliated Belfast based clubs and Belfast City Council's sports groups' database. This ensures that newly formed groups which are not currently eligible for grant funding can avail of development support through a wide range of Council services including Sports Development Officers in areas such as governance, club development support and coach education.
- 3.4** During the period of the strategy a new representative body, titled the Northern Ireland Boxing Association (NIBA), has formed with a number of existing clubs shifting their affiliation to this body and new clubs formed. As a Governing Body of Sport it is not recognised by any of the Home Countries Sports Council's nor affiliated to the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA). The NIBA is not represented on the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group. Clubs affiliated to governing bodies which are not currently recognised are ineligible for grant funding for training or competitions by Belfast City Council. Boxers who wish to represent either Ireland or Great Britain at the highest level have agreed protocols for their support and development through the four Home Countries boxing associations. NIBA clubs can access development support through the sports development officers.

**3.5 Grant funding from the Belfast Boxing strategy has not been given to Belfast boxing clubs which are not affiliated to the IABA. Support for development activities such as development planning, budgeting, marketing etc. was offered to all 33 clubs on the Belfast City Council database, although no clubs affiliated to NIBA accepted. At the request of two Belfast based NIBA clubs, Belfast City Council has removed their details from the sports clubs database and it is not possible to directly contact these clubs to offer development support.**

**3.6 Financial Implications**

Direct financial support for the boxing strategy ended on 31 March 2017. People and Communities Committee of 7 March 2017 approved an amount of up to £24,000 to be ring-fenced from the Support for Sport budget for delivery of a programme of events organised by the IABA. Council on 3 July 2017 approved an amount of £45,000 from Strategic Policy and Resources for a programme of work by the IABA to support ongoing delivery of the boxing strategy.

**3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**No implications.”**

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**DAERA NI Consultation - Transposition of the Medium Combustion Plant Directive including the Regulation of Thermal Electricity Generators**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 Members will note that the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has recently consulted on the transposition of the Medium Combustion Plant (MCP) Directive into Northern Ireland legislation with a view to regulating emissions from this type of plant.**

**1.2 DAERA has proposed that the permitting of qualifying MCP installations will be via an amendment to the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations NI 2013. At present, the City Council regulate Part C industrial premises under this legislation whereas the Northern**

Ireland Environment Agency regulates Part A & B industrial premises.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- Consider this report and to recommend the submission of the appended draft consultation response to DAERA.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1** The Committee is advised that the DAERA MCP consultation commenced from 21st June 2017 and concluded on 16th August 2017. Given the tight turnaround time for submission the council's proposed consultation response was unable to be considered by the People and Communities Committee and by council ahead of the submission deadline. Officers did request an extension to allow for committee consideration of the draft response. However, DAERA was unable to grant an extension to the consultation deadline.
- 3.2** Accordingly, in submitting a draft response to DAERA on 16th August 2017, the Department was advised that the council's consultation response would be considered by the People and Communities Committee at its next scheduled meeting on 12th September 2017 and then by council at its meeting on 2nd October 2017.
- 3.3** For these reasons, DAERA was advised further that Belfast City Council's consultation response should be regarded as being in draft format and that the council would advise the Department of any revisions in due course.
- 3.4** The transposition and implementation of the Directive will be achieved through the Pollution, Prevention and Control Regime. It is noted however, that no guidance has as yet been developed or issued by the Department with regard to the implementation of this legislation. Accordingly, the council's consultation response indicates that officers will seek to engage with DAERA regarding this matter and that the council has requested that appropriate training be provided to officers well in advance of the legislation being implemented.
- 3.5** DAERA in its consultation has estimated that there may be up to 1,200 qualifying installations across Northern Ireland

although the locations of these installations have not yet been established. In our response, we have therefore noted that no scoping of the locations of the installations has been undertaken as part of the consultation process or the accompanying regulatory impact assessment and that it is therefore impossible at this stage to know how many of these installations will be located within the Belfast City Council boundary. We have recommended therefore that DAERA engages fully with all councils in order to identify the numbers and locations of the various plants to be permitted and in the setting of permit fees in order to ensure that councils are not financially disadvantaged as a result of the introduction of this legislation.

3.6 As a further point, we have recommended to DAERA that costs should not relate only to the ongoing permitting process but they should also take into consideration local authority costs and resources associated with the introduction of this legislation. It is anticipated that there will be staff resources associated with identifying and permitting of qualifying plant and ensuring compliant abatement equipment is being used.

3.7 With no fee structure yet established, the income to council for this function is unknown. Accordingly, we have advised in our response that the council should not be financially disadvantaged though the introduction of this legislation.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

The introduction and implementation of these regulations would place an additional duty on to local Councils. It is important that the setting of fees are sufficient to ensure this new duty does not place a financial burden on Councils.

3.9 Equality & Good Relations Implications

It is considered that there are no relevant equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.”

The Committee endorsed the draft response to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), available on the Council’s website [here](#), relating to regulating of emissions from Medium Combustion Plant and agreed that the draft document, which had already been submitted as a draft response, would now be confirmed as the Council’s final response, subject to Council ratification.



**Request for use of Alexandra Park -  
North Belfast Magical Festival**

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received for the free use of Alexandra Park to host the North Belfast Magical Festival. She explained that last year had been the first year that the event had been staged in Alexandra Park and it had been a great success. This event was a project of the Ashton Community Trust which had, for the past fourteen years, been managed by New Lodge Arts, a voluntary arts organisation across communities in North Belfast.

The Members were advised that this would be a family event with tickets costing £1.00 each and she outlined a brief itinerary of proposed events as follows:

- art workshops and street performances;
- an outdoor cinema;
- a lantern parade, that would make its way from Cliftonpark Avenue to Alexandra Park;
- a magical evening event that would include outdoor performances;
- stage entertainment; and
- a fireworks display to close the event.

The Assistant Director advised that this year it was proposed that the two-day festival would take place on Sunday 29th October from 11.30 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. and on Monday 30th October from 11.30 a.m. – 9.00 p.m.

The Committee noted that the event organisers had confirmed that they would undertake to do the following in order to ensure delivery of a safe and successful event:

- employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment;
- employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event;
- ensure that a one-way system for the park was in place;
- ensure that local residents were informed about the event 7 days prior to the event and that there would be no inconvenience or nuisance caused to the residents on the day of the event; and
- work with the relevant Council departments to ensure the effective management of the park and event.

The Members also noted that, to assist with the setup, the organisers had requested that the park be closed to members of the public from 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. on 30th October and that only members of the public with tickets would be permitted entry from 6.00 p.m. until the event had finished.

The Committee granted authority for the free use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Magical Festival on condition that the event organisers:

- liaise with Council officers and ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the Council's satisfaction, including an event management plan and risk assessments; and

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- complete an appropriate legal agreement and meet all statutory requirements, including entertainment and fireworks licensing.

**Request for use of Cathedral Gardens**

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Rally for Choice seeking permission to hold a Rally for Choice Event at Cathedral Gardens from 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. on 14th October.

The officer advised that Rally for Choice was an organisation based in Northern Ireland that campaigned for free, safe and legal abortion. She reported that it was proposed that a small stage would be erected in Cathedral Gardens and a sound system would be used for the speeches, the event would also include a samba band performance and face painting. Organisers were expecting between 500 – 800 people to attend the rally and the closure of the park might be required. The officer also highlighted that as some might deem the event to be controversial, the PSNI had been informed and it was envisaged that a temporary street closure might also be necessary.

The Committee granted authority for the use of Cathedral Gardens on 14th October to hold a Rally for Choice event, subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and the following terms being satisfactorily agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services:

- the event organisers meet all statutory requirements, including public liability insurance cover, health and safety and licensing responsibilities; and
- the event organisers agree to consult with the adjoining public bodies, the local community and the PSNI as required.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Increased Provision for Tree Planting**

In accordance with notice on the agenda Councillor Milne raised:

*“Belfast residents and visitors have very well-provisioned green spaces, largely due to a knowledgeable and dedicated team who tend to over 60,000 + Park trees and 12,500 street trees within the Council boundary. However, there has been a decline of provision of resources directed specifically at tree planting, and around National Tree Week. I would therefore ask the Committee to consider:*

- (a) assessing the feasibility of directing additional resources towards an appropriate tree planting program, whilst working in line with considerations and recommendations to improve and maintain local biodiversity and urban habitat and;*
- (b) assessing the feasibility of developing a programme of activities to tie into National Tree Week.”*

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A Member requested that when considering this matter, officers would take into consideration the recent decision taken by the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group, at its meeting on 6th September, to proceed to implement the Council's 2008 policy decision to end the process of providing memorial trees at Roselawn Cemetery.

The Committee agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Request for Funding from North Belfast Play Forum**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members a request from the North Belfast Play Forum for a contribution of £6,000 for the current financial year to sustain the club. A copy of the request from North Belfast Play Forum is available on mod.gov.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Committee is asked to**

- **Agree to support North Belfast Play Forum through payment of £6,000 to sustain the club and that payment is made through a variation of the existing Facility Management Agreement.**
- **Committee is also asked to agree that Sport Development staff work with the forum to review its programme and scope for income generation.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 The letter provides background information on the Forum and the good work it has been doing since the mid 1990's in this area. The Forum has had a relationship with the Council dating back to this time, initially through agreement to use of the land to construct a polymeric multi user games area and the subsequent facilities management agreement (FMA) which ran until 2013 when the forum secured funding to upgrade the polymeric surface to 3G. Members are asked to note that the Council also contributed £10,000 as a 3rd party funder to this project to meet the short fall in funding. At that time, at the request of the forum, they secured a lease agreement with the Council, this was in order to satisfy the**

requirements of the funding body. The lease arrangement terminated the FMA which meant that the maintenance fee from the Council was no longer available, although a small fee in respect of the administrative building adjacent to the pitch remains subject to a FMA and a small monthly fee is currently payable. The Forum has therefore been in a position of having to effectively self-finance through income generation whether through charges or securing revenue funding.

- 3.2 The Forum has continued to provide a low cost affordable sports facility in this area however, it is experiencing a reducing balance. Applications have been made for revenue funding from both Sport Relief and from Children in Need. These are currently being assessed and no decision has yet been made.
- 3.3 The actual use of the facility is consistent with Council experience of artificial pitch use, i.e. consistent evening use Monday to Friday and morning to afternoon use at weekends. Day time use is limited.
- 3.4 A review of the current programme demonstrates that there is a significant element of free use. However, elements of this 'free' use includes intervention programmes for which the forum had received an income from a fund.
- 3.5 The Forum has previously sought and been granted similar support of approximately £22,000 in 2008 when the Council agreed to fund a post for 1 year.

#### Request for Support

- 3.6 The current request relates to a cash flow issue where funds are required to support immediate outgoings, i.e. to cover insurance, accounts and maintenance.
- 3.7 Council could consider an option of bringing the asset back under the management of Council however this would have significant operational and financial impact extending beyond the cost of £6,000.
- 3.8 Given the substantial work of the North Belfast Play Forum and its past performance Members are asked to consider payment of £6,000 to sustain the current delivery model.
- 3.9 It is further recommended that support is provided to the forum by Sports Development Officers to assess the programming of the facility and potential for additional income generation.

**3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

**If members agree to the recommendation Officers will accommodate the amount of £6,000 within existing budgets.**

**3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There has been no equality impact.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

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## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 13th September, 2017

### MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);  
Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and L. Patterson; and  
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian,  
Dudgeon, Graham, Hargey, Johnston,  
Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown,  
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;  
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Howard and Kyle.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 9th and 23rd August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th September.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Members' Devices**

A Member expressed concerns with the performance of the new device which had replaced the iPads. A number of Members explained that they had been unable to access the Committee papers on the device, which was unsatisfactory in terms of preparing for the meeting.

The Chief Executive confirmed to the Committee that she would speak to the Head of Digital Services about the concerns which had been raised.

#### **Restricted Items**

**The Information contained in the following three reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014**

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

**City Centre Investment Fund Update**

The Director of City Centre Development reminded the Committee that the City Centre Investment Fund had been launched on 15th June, 2017, seeking applications from developers with planning permission for significant office development within the Belfast BMAP boundary.

She advised the Members that a number of applications had been received by the deadline of 18th August.

The Committee was advised that Stage 1 of the process entailed the internal Investment Panel reviewing the eligibility of each project to determine if it should proceed to Stage 2.

She explained to the Members that Stage 2 consisted of the Evaluation Partner performing High Level Due Diligence of each project, scoring against agreed criteria and recommending to the Investment Panel the projects which should proceed to Stage 3, Detailed Due Diligence.

The Committee was advised that those applications which were recommended for progression to Stages 2 and 3 would be notified to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in line with the CCIF process, with that Committee required to approve recommended investments before they would progress to legal contracts.

The Director advised the Members that an Evaluation Partner had been identified and would be appointed in due course.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

**Belfast Infrastructure Plan**

The Director of City Centre Development outlined to the Members that she was seeking approval to commission specialist support to develop the Belfast Infrastructure Plan and to establish a cross-agency working group to oversee the production of the Plan.

She explained that the proposed Infrastructure Plan would provide a holistic assessment of what would be required in terms of infrastructure requirements to deliver the targets of the Belfast Agenda by 2035 and would focus on key deliverables such as the economic narrative, infrastructure needs and delivery costs, transportation and connectivity, the utility infrastructure and a costed delivery plan.



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During discussion, the Director confirmed that she would be working closely with the Director of Property and Projects and his team in relation to a number of city-wide issues, such as flood prevention.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to commit funding to commission an external consultant to produce the Infrastructure Plan; and
2. that the City Centre Development Team would establish a cross-agency working group to co-client the funding and production of the Belfast Infrastructure Plan.

**Belfast Bikes Update**

(Ms. A. Doherty, Planning and Transport Officer, attended in connection with this item)

The Planning and Transport Officer provided the Committee with an update on the initial stages of the strategic review of the Belfast Bikes scheme and on the actions which had been approved at its meeting on 9th August, 2017.

She provided the Members with an update on the business case, subscriptions and usage levels and sponsorship options.

A number of Members expressed concerns at the level of vandalism of the bikes across the city.

The Planning and Transport Officer reminded the Committee that, at the Members' Workshop, it had been suggested that the docking stations with the lowest usage figures were to be relocated.

A further Member stated that docking stations should be installed in residential areas to encourage use of the bikes, with an associated marketing campaign promoting the health and cost benefits, and that it should not be a scheme for the city centre.

After discussion, the Committee noted the update on the business case and the ongoing promotional activities. The Committee also agreed to the proposed actions as set out in the report.

**Request to present to Committee**

**Active Communities Network and Sport Changes Life**

The Committee acceded to a request to present at a future meeting from the Active Communities Network and Sport Changes Life on the work which was being undertaken across the city to support the positive engagement and employability of young people.

**Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

**City Centre Living**

The Director of City Centre Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 8th March, it had received an update on the work which was underway to identify the key issues around liveability and increasing the residential population in the city centre. She highlighted to the Members that it was a key policy in the Belfast City Centre Investment Strategy and was further reinforced in the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan.

During discussion, a Member referred to a recent planning decision on a site within the Gasworks Northern Fringe and stated that the Council should focus on actions and not words when it came to promoting city centre living.

The Director provided the Members with details of the upcoming study visit to London, which would provide an opportunity to examine examples of mixed tenure and density, as well as highlighting the quality design and wider liveability elements such as public realm, the provision of social infrastructure and models of sustainable development.

She reminded the Members that a follow-up workshop on City Centre Living had been scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 23rd October.

The Committee was advised that representatives from Planning and Place would take part in both the study visit and the workshop to ensure shared learning and a collective approach.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Department for Communities and the Housing Associations be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the issue of city centre living in Belfast.

The Committee:

1. noted the purpose of the study visit to London on 12th-13th October;
2. noted the follow-up workshop on 23rd October; and
3. agreed that representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Department for Communities and representatives from Housing Associations be invited to attend a future meeting in order to discuss city centre living.

**Strategic and Operational Issues**

**Recruitment of Operational Director posts –  
Place and Economy Department**

The Chief Executive explained to the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed, at its meeting on 23rd June, that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee should determine the composition of the two selection panels for the recruitment of the posts of the Director for City Regeneration (Operational) and the Director for Economic Development (Operational) within the new Place and Economy Department.

The Committee was advised that the recommended Panel should comprise the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) plus a third elected panel member from a political party not already represented, who, along with Council Directors, would balance the two panels in terms of gender and community background.

She explained that all Panel members would be required to attend four selection panel meetings per post as part of the recruitment exercises and would also be required to attend prior training on non-discriminatory Recruitment and Selection techniques. The Committee noted that the timeframe for the recruitment exercises was likely to commence in October 2017.

The Members were reminded that the recruitment exercise for the new Strategic Director of the Place and Economy Department was ongoing.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. that each selection panel would comprise the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and a third elected panel member from a political party not already represented by the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson;
2. that a DUP Member would sit on the Panel for the recruitment of the Director of Economic Development;
3. that an Alliance Party Member would sit on the Panel for the recruitment of the Director for City Regeneration; and
4. that the Council would deploy suitable professional and technical expertise from other Councils, if required, to be voting members on the selection panels for these new posts, in line with the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection.

**Car Parking - Income Generated**

(Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, attended in connection with this item)

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The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 14th June, it had requested that information be submitted detailing the income which had been generated by each Council-owned car park in the city

She advised the Members that, on 1st April 2015, the Department for Infrastructure (formerly known as the Department for Regional Development) had transferred its off-street car parks (excluding Park and Ride/Park and Share car parks) to local councils. As a result, Belfast City Council had initially become responsible for the operation of 30 of those car parks, although this had since reduced to 29, due to the expiration of a short term lease for the car park at Frederick Street. The Committee was advised that 16 of those car parks were chargeable.

She outlined that, for the financial year April 2016 to March 2017, the car parks within the Council's portfolio had generated a total of £1,878,044. The Members were advised that the costs associated with operating the 29 car parks during the same period totalled £863,599 but that this did not include internal charges such as business administration, legal and digital services.

She explained that, in its first year of operation, off-street car parking had generated an operating surplus of £1,014,444 but pointed out that off-street car parking had transferred to councils together with the Planning function, on a rates neutral basis, whereby the surplus generated by parking was off-set against the cost of the Planning function to ensure no overall financial gain or increased cost to the Council or its ratepayers.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Operational Amendments to Christmas Lights Switch-On and St. Patrick's Day**

(Mr. G. Copeland, City Events Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The City Events Manager explained that he was seeking the Committee's approval for operational amendments to the Christmas Lights Switch-On and to St. Patrick's Day.

It was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Walsh and

Resolved - That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the 2018 St. Patrick's Day element of the report, for one month, to allow a presentation from Fáilte Feirste Thiar at the next meeting, following publication of its report on St.Patrick's Day 2017.

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The Committee considered the undernoted section of the report in relation to the Christmas Lights Switch-On 2017 at the City Hall:

**“3.2 Members may be aware that the switching on of the city’s festive lighting dates back to the early 1970s. Over the years, the staging of the Belfast Christmas Lights Switch-on has become a bye-word for the start of the Belfast Christmas Festive period. Hundreds of thousands have attended the event over the years, with an annual audience of over 10,000. As the event has grown additional elements have been added in order to cope with crowd numbers and in doing so provide a safe and welcoming space.**

**However, since the introduction and growth of the city’s very successful Christmas Market it has become apparent that the complexity of setting up for two major events, the Christmas Market and Switch-on, requires a change in approach to increase the level of safety for all.**

**Therefore, Members are asked to note that Officers, with the endorsement of the Council’s Events Advisory Panel (non-statutory advisory group made of a range of Council Officers, PSNI, BCCM, Department for Infrastructure (Roads), NI Ambulance Service, NI Fire & Rescue, etc.) would intend to apply for road closures along: Wellington Place; Donegall Square North and Chichester Street from 21:00 hours, on Friday 17 November to Sunday 19 November, at 07:00 and restrictions to traffic in Donegall Square East. This arrangement would restrict vehicular movement to contractors (involved in the Christmas Lights and Christmas Market build) and require the Council to work with partners such as Belfast City Centre Management, PSNI, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Translink and the Department of Infrastructure (Roads) to enforce such road closures.**

**The intended outcome would be to reduce the level of pedestrian and vehicle interaction in an area that is heavily congested even before the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on construction has started. This interaction has become an area of grave concern with many pedestrians taking risks at road junctions where temporary layouts are in place, often ignoring directional signage, advice of stewards and breaking through directional barriers.**

**Given these issues, Officers, and members of the Events Advisory Panel are now of the opinion that the current traffic/pedestrian management arrangements present an**

**unacceptable level of risk to the many pedestrians, motorists and other road users during the final set-up for both the Christmas Market and Switch-on. These amendments have been notified to Belfast City Centre Management and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce. Therefore, Members are asked to support Officers in their efforts to increase the levels of safety in an area of the city that experiences exceptionally high vehicular and pedestrian footfall even before the staging of the city's two biggest Christmas festive events."**

In response to a Member's question, as to whether one lane of traffic could be closed instead of the entire road, the City Events Manager explained that this had been trialled the previous year but had been unsuccessful as a number of people ignored the closures and it was felt that it presented an unacceptable level of risk to the many pedestrians, motorists and other road users during the final set-up of the Christmas Market and the Switch-on.

The Committee agreed the proposed road closure arrangements for the 2017 Christmas Lights Switch-on, which would take place on Saturday, 18th November, and for such changes to be utilised for all future Christmas Lights Switch-on events, subject to the Council's Events and Festivals strategic review.

### **Positioning Belfast to Compete**

#### **MIPIM 2018 and Marketing Belfast Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Committee on MIPIM 2018 and on-going marketing activities to promote Belfast to the investment and development community.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- Note the approach to MIPIM 2018 including activities currently being undertaken to promote Belfast to the investment and development community;**
- agree to the attendance of the Deputy Lord Mayor at the European Waterfront Cities Network at the EXPO Real in Munich, from 4th - 6th October 2017; and**
- agree to the attendance of either the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominee) at the MIPIM UK event in London, from 18th - 19th October, 2017.**

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1** The Belfast Agenda highlights the Council's ambition to attract 1 billion of investment into the city, along with medium term goals to develop 1.5m sq of Grade A Offices, and 2,500 hotel bed spaces by 2021. Delivering this ambitious agenda requires a further step change in how we position and promote the city. Belfast continues to grow in global awareness and popularity as a place to do business. In order to capitalise on this growing awareness, Belfast needs to remain visible to the international investment and development community and ensure our city narrative and messaging are clearly articulated to this target audience.
- 3.2** Belfast at MIPIM 2018 will build on the success of the Belfast delegations to MIPIM in 2016 and 2017. Following our participation at the European Cities Event at MIPIM 2017 the Council has been invited to participate at the European Waterfront Cities Network at EXPO Real in October 2017. Estates Gazette will also host a Belfast Question Time in October. To support these activities, a marketing pack is being developed which incorporates the new Belfast brand tailored to the business community. This pack will include a brochure, sector factsheets, presentation pack and standalone investment website.
- 3.3** An update on marketing activities currently being undertaken to promote Belfast as a destination for investment, development and regeneration is outlined below.

**MIPIM 2018**

- 3.4** MIPIM is the international market for real estate professionals. The next exhibition will be held at the Palais de Festivals, Cannes, France from the 13–16 March 2018.
- 3.5** Belfast at MIPIM 2018 will build on the success of the Belfast delegations to MIPIM in 2016 and 2017. These put Belfast firmly on the radar of investors and developers who had not previously considered the city as a location for doing business.
- 3.6** CGR Committee in April 2017 provided:
- Approval for officers to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand at MIPIM 2018 to an area of higher footfall;

- In principle approval that the existing £60,000 investment be enhanced, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at later Committee and;
- Authorisation for officers to commence procurement for consultancy support for programming, event management, communications, and design.

- 3.7 Unfortunately, Reed MIPIIM, the MIPIIM event organisers, have been unable to offer an alternative location for the Belfast stand. The Belfast stand at MIPIIM will therefore be situated in the same location as 2016 and 2017.
- 3.8 BCC is in the process of finalising the appointment of consultancy support to assist with event management; PR, marketing and communication; sponsorship and stand design for MIPIIM 2018.
- 3.9 Following feedback from delegates and key learnings at MIPIIM 2017, we have created a number of key objectives for MIPIIM 2018. These include reducing the number of events on the Belfast at MIPIIM stand, increasing Belfast's presence on main conference agenda, participating at events hosted on other stands, including DIT, and co-hosting events with other cities.
- 3.10 The Chair of the MIPIIM Steering Group and appointed consultancy will be liaising with potential sponsors and partners to secure their participations and financial support for MIPIIM 2018.
- 3.11 Discussions are on-going with Reed MIPIIM to include the Belfast delegation on the main conference agenda and with DIT to participate at events in the UK Government Pavilion.

Marketing pack to promote Belfast to the international investment and developer community

- 3.12 A key channel to promote Belfast as a destination for investment, development and regeneration will be digital media and international conferences and events attended by BCC and city partners. The launch of the new Belfast Brand is an opportune time to refresh all BCC marketing material for the investment and development community. It is proposed that we create a marketing pack; to include a brochure, sector factsheets, presentation pack and standalone website. This pack will be used at International conferences attended by BCC (including MIPIIM Cannes, MIPIIM UK, Real Expo), outward visits by BCC to our sister city networks (including Boston,



Nashville, China etc) and for inward visits from prospective investors.

- 3.13 All material will incorporate the new competitive positioning and visual identity for the City of Belfast. The new identity is based on the brand idea – ‘Belfast. Energy Unleashed’, tailored to the business community.

International investment and development conferences

- 3.14 *European Waterfront Cities Network at EXPO Real, October 4-6th 2017*

Belfast City Council has been invited to participate at the European Waterfront Cities Network at EXPO Real in October 2017, this follows our participation at the European Cities Event at MIPIIM 2017. There are a number of events planned over the two-day conference, including open and private events. BCC will participate in a panel discussion at the Urban Innovation and Investment Seminar, a Waterfront Cities Network Meeting with participant cities and a City Leaders’ summit. Officers are awaiting information about timetable and number of delegates required and will provide verbal update to Members at Committee.

- 3.15 *MIPIIM UK, October 18-19th 2017*

Belfast City Council has been invited to attend the launch of the Northern Ireland Portfolio by Invest Northern Ireland and DIT. Confirmation of attendance is subject to receipt of additional information about the launch.

- 3.16 *Estates Gazette Belfast Question Time, 5th October 2017*

Question Time is Estates Gazette’s premier debate and networking event. Following a successful event in 2016, it will be returning to Belfast on the 5th October.

- 3.17 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost for this work is accounted for in existing provisions.

- 3.18 Equality and Good Relations

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**Visit by Lord Mayor of City of London**

The Director of Development advised the Members that the Lord Mayor of the City of London, the Right Honourable Dr Andrew Parmley, would visit Belfast from the 10th – 11th October.

He advised the Committee that the role of the Lord Mayor of the City of London was to support and promote the United Kingdom's financial and professional services.

He explained to the Members that officers had been working closely with Invest NI to maximise the opportunities of the visit and highlighted the following elements of the Belfast programme:

- a business roundtable in the Citi Headquarters building on the morning of 10th October, focusing on positioning Belfast as an investment location for financial and professional services;
- a civic reception and dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Nuala McAllister, in the Titanic Hotel on 10th October, to which all Members would be invited to attend; and
- a visit to the Centre for Secure Information technology (CSIT) to showcase the research and technology excellence available at the centre, which had helped make Belfast the number one location globally for US-based cyber investment.

The Director also reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 12th April, it had agreed to sponsor the London-based business network Belfast Partners which supported business development connections between the two cities. He informed the Members of an upcoming business mission to London in November which would involve a number of local technology businesses. He explained that the mission would include a networking reception and showcase event which would provide an opportunity to follow up on some of the relationships established during Dr Parmley's visit to Belfast.

The Committee:

1. noted the planned visit to Belfast by the Lord Mayor of the 'City of London and the opportunities presented by it, in promoting Belfast as an investment location; and
2. agreed the draft programme for the Lord Mayor's visit, including the civic reception and dinner in the Titanic Hotel, to which all Members of the Committee would be invited to attend.

**Conference Tourism: Economic Impact  
and Future Growth**

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 update Members on the growth of conference tourism over recent years and the potential for future growth, as a key element of tourism development in the City.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the importance and economic value of conference tourism to the city and the projected growth of this sector**
- Note the importance of Conference support mechanisms such as the Subvention Scheme in attracting events**
- Agree to extend the scheme end date to 2025, subject to agreement with Tourism NI and subject to resource availability.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**Background**

**3.1 Business and conference tourism is a key priority of the Integrated Tourism Strategy which was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2015. The Strategy was developed in tandem with the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan and the proposals are aligned to support the future development, economic growth and profile of the city.**

**3.2 Belfast City Council and Tourism NI both provide financial support towards a Conference Subvention Scheme which is administered by Visit Belfast. This provides financial incentives to encourage Conference organisers to choose Belfast as a destination for their event. An independent review of the scheme was conducted at the end of 2016 and, as a result, new guidelines have been developed in order to streamline the process and ensure that the fund meets the changing needs of the Conference sector.**

**3.3 The Scheme has been a critical element of Belfast’s ability to attract conferences to the City. Last year, conference tourism contributed over £35million to the City’s economy in terms of spend on venues, accommodation, hospitality and leisure activities.**

**3.4 Key Issues**

The investment in the new Conference and Exhibition facilities at Belfast Waterfront has been a 'game-changer' in terms of the City's activity to host large-scale Conferences and events as well as associated exhibitions. Working with local Ambassadors (principally aligned to the local universities) and with local venues, the Business Tourism team at Visit Belfast has been working to raise awareness of the enhanced facilities as well as the wider positioning of Belfast as a cost-competitive, business-friendly Conference location.

**3.4 Over the course of the last financial year, the continued efforts of those involved helped secure the following conference tourism deliverables:**

- 69 major conferences
- 25,000 delegates
- 75,000 bed nights
- Economic value of £35 million to the city.

**3.5 Some of the events recently secured by Visit Belfast for the coming years include:**

- **European Conference on Personalised Medicine:**
- 1,250 delegates, 5,000 bed nights worth £1.9m in 2017
- **IDF World Dairy Summit:**
- 1,200 delegates, 6,250 bed nights worth £2.4m 2017
- **WHO Healthy Cities Conference:**
- 1,000 delegates, 5,000 bed nights worth £1.9m in 2018.
- **British Ecological Society Annual Meeting:**
- 1,500 delegates, 4,500 bed nights worth £2.2m in 2019
- **College of Occupational Therapists:**
- 1,500 delegates. 3,000 bed nights worth £1.4m 2019
- **Microbiology Society Conference 2019 and 2022**
- 1,400 delegates, 5,600 bed nights worth £2.7m per conference.

**3.6 Having the physical infrastructure in place is just one element of a city's activity to attract large-scale Conferences and Events. Conference organisers also look for elements such as ease of access, alignment to Conference objectives (e.g. areas of research excellence) and the 'city welcome'. Members will be aware that the City Hall can provide a spectacular backdrop for events and the ability to provide access to the venue for Conference receptions is an important selling tool for the city.**

- 3.7 In a highly competitive, global business environment, it is important to be able to offer a 'package' of support in order to allow the city to compete favourably. Most cities have access to a Conference Subvention Scheme which can provide Conference organisers with financial incentives to secure the Conference or event for their city.
- 3.8 In Belfast, the Council and Tourism NI have been investing in the Conference Subvention Fund for a number of years. The scheme has evolved as the market has changed and as the City offer has moved on. Following some competitor benchmarking, as part of the independent review, Visit Belfast has worked with the Council and Tourism NI to revise the operational arrangements around the scheme, focusing on maximising economic return while providing optimal flexibility to Conference organisers in terms of eligible expenditure. While details are currently being finalised, it is proposed that the product offer is re-branded to demonstrate the breadth of the support services available to Conference organisers – not just the financial incentive. This may include opportunities to support familiarisation trips if Belfast is shortlisted as a host city for an event, or providing hospitality at City Hall for those events that meet the revised criteria for these functions.
- 3.9 Visit Belfast currently has a strong pipeline of £180 million of active leads and is prioritising research and sales activity into two identified sectors, namely Life and Health Sciences and Agri-Food. These sectors provide a stronger and quicker return due to the pool of Ambassador talent within the local universities. In addition to these sectors, they will continue to focus on wider economic sectors that align to areas of research and industry expertise in the City.
- 3.10 When the current Conference Subvention Scheme was put in place, the end date for financial commitments was set as 2020. Given that Visit Belfast is currently exploring opportunities to bid for Conferences beyond this date, it is proposed that the end date for the scheme is extended to 2025. This does not mean that the Council will be committing to maintaining specific levels of resources until this timeframe. Instead, it means that Visit Belfast will be able to look ahead to a wider timeframe for new business development opportunities, subject to financial resources being in place. Officers are currently engaging with Tourism NI to ensure that they can also agree to these revised timeframes.

**3.11 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**No specific equality or good relations implications.**

**3.12 Financial and Resource Implications**

**At present Belfast City Council's annual financial contribution to the Conference Subvention Scheme is £200,000. This is match-funded by resources from Tourism NI. This allocation has been set aside in existing budgets for the current financial year.**

**The Council contribution to the scheme will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, in conjunction with Tourism NI and in line with available resources."**

A number of Members expressed their thanks to the hard work of the staff involved in the recent growth of conference tourism within Belfast.

A Member stated that communications was key and that the Council should promote the great deal of work which was being done to attract the conferences to the City as well as the successful outcomes and the value which is added as a result to Belfast.

In response to a further Member's question about the new brand for the City, the Chief Executive confirmed that Council press statements would be sent to all Members to ensure they were kept up to date with the key messages and information on the new City brand.

A further Member suggested, given that the Friendship Four Basketball Tournament was broadcast live to the USA, that the new logo be displayed in the SSE Arena for the duration of the tournament.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

**European Capital of Culture - 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 update Members on the development of a bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to become the UK designated city for European Capital of Culture in 2023.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the contents of this report including ongoing progress against targets and critical timelines

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

Members will be aware that an update was provided to Committee in August 2017 with a follow up workshop at the Seamus Heaney Centre scheduled for 12 September 2017.

**3.2 The purpose of this workshop was to:**

- provide a detailed update on the engagement process and the associated themes for the bid
- provide an overview of programme content
- discuss the level of financial commitment required and the associated funding strategy

**3.3 Invites were extended to all Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Party Group Leaders (or nominees).**

**3.4 Engagement**

To date the bid has engaged with over 7,000 people across both cities. This has been achieved through attendance at events throughout the summer alongside a programme of tailored workshops. Extensive engagement has also taken place through Council's existing schemes. An online platform has also been established.

**3.5 The engagement during stage one has largely focussed on three strands:**

- One to one engagement with local citizens
- Facilitated workshops with interest groups
- Sessions with representative and voluntary organisations

**3.6 The responses to this engagement will directly shape the overall theme and brand of the bid. This theme needs to be authentic to the cities as well as having strong relevance for**

Europe. The bid is on target to have engaged with 10,000 citizens by the submission date of 27 October 2017.

**3.7** Should the bid be shortlisted to stage 2 this engagement will continue with opportunities for direct participation through a series of pilot projects. A report will be taken to Committee outlining the proposed approach for the allocation of any funding to these projects.

**3.8** Further awareness of the bid has also been achieved through marketing and communications activities. This activity will continue to increase in the coming months to help build momentum in the run up to the submission deadline.

**3.9** **Cultural Programme**

As well as the civic engagement outlined above the bid team has also delivered a series of events targeting the wider cultural and creative sector. This has included:

- Information session
- 6 thematic workshops
- 4 Big Ideas sessions

**3.10** These sessions have engaged with over 300 people working across the arts, heritage, sport, science and the creative industries.

**3.11** A creative reference group has been established to include 4 local representatives. These members were selected following a nomination and application process. This group also includes three international programmers who have previous experience of either developing a bid or delivering a successful European Capital of Culture.

**3.12** At stage one a number of indicative projects will be presented as part of the bid. In order to select these projects three strands of programme development are in place. This includes:

- **Open Call:** opportunity for anyone to submit projects ideas
- **Commission:** the identification of a number of flagship project ideas based on the themes emerging from the engagement process. A formal commissioning process would take place at subsequent stages.
- **Curate:** the group will identify specific gaps in the programme and make connections with smaller projects from the open call.



**3.13** The open call closed on 6 September 2017. All ideas will be retained for stage 2, however, a selection will be presented at stage one. Any individual or group who submits an idea will be invited to a follow up event in January 2018.

**3.14** **Timeline**

Given the timelines associated with the submission of the stage 1 bid the final proposal and financial information will be presented at a meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 22 September 2017. The current critical path is available on modern.gov.

**3.15** **Financial & Resource Implications**

A provisional total budget of £51m will be included in the submission at stage 1. This has been benchmarked against spend by other cities who have bid for the designation. This would be made up of a variety of funding streams over a number of years. A detailed fundraising strategy is currently being developed and this will include funding from public and private sources. If shortlisted to stage 2 a full business case will be developed. At stage one it is important to demonstrate the viability of the bid and the capacity of the region to deliver a programme of the required scale. Further and specific commitment to financial support will be necessary at stage 2.

**3.16** **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

In advance of stage 2 the engagement plan will be equality screened and any gaps addressed. The final programme and associated strategies will also be equality screened.”

The Chief Executive explained to the Committee that only one city could be the named candidate city for the bid. She informed the Members that the issue would be considered by both Councils, separately, at an agreed date in the week commencing 25th September. The Members noted that a Special meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would be held to consider the issue.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**International Relations - Update**

(Ms. L. Leonard, European and International Relations Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to:**

- Update Members on the delivery of the International Relations Framework, focusing on activity over the last six months since April 2017
- Seek approval for the delivery of further activity within the 2017 – 2018 Action Plan until the end of the current financial year.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the range of activities and associated outputs of a range of International Relations actions over the course of the first half of this financial year as well as the plans for the period September 2017 - March 2018
- Agree to the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) and the Lord Mayor at the business mission and business networking event in the City of London on 22-23 November 2017.
- Agree to the attendance of the Chair of Committee (or her nominee) and one officer at the 2017 Commonwealth Local Government conference in Malta on 21 – 24 November, 2017, at a cost not to exceed £1,500;
- Agree to the attendance of the Lord Mayor and Director of Development (or their nominees) at the launch of the 2018 Friendship Four Tournament in Boston in January 2018, at a cost not to exceed £3,500.
- Agree to provide financial support of up to £5,000 towards the annual Chinese New Year event in Belfast.

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016 - 2021.**

**3.2 The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage with other stakeholders as a place to visit, study, work and do business. The Framework will deliver primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through the Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.**

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- 3.3** Members will be aware that, at the 8 March 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update report on International Relations activity for the previous six months was presented and the outline plans for the coming period were set out for endorsement. This report provides an update on the activities and associated outcomes over the six-month period from April to September 2017 and identifies a number of priority actions for the coming six months, until the end of the current financial year. These activities have, in the most part, been led by Belfast City Council working in partnership with stakeholders in government, education, tourism, business, culture and sport.
- 3.4** The key deliverables for the period April-September 2017 are set out on modern.gov. Highlights include:
- City visit to Shenyang, focusing on educational linkage opportunities. The Lord Mayor was accompanied by representation from Belfast Metropolitan College and both universities and all are currently pursuing opportunities for collaborative research, training and student exchanges
  - Hosting of the first ever visit to Belfast by the Nashville Healthcare Council, with plans underway for a wider trade mission from Tennessee State area in the coming year
  - Hosting of a multi-sectoral business mission from Boston in June 2017. Some concrete leads are already progressing, including collaborative engagement between the MAC and academics from Harvard University.
- 3.5** The coming six months will see a number of inward and outward visits as well as ongoing engagement and contacts to follow up on leads from previous visits. The majority of these activities have already been approved by this Committee and the budgetary resources have been set aside within the agreed Departmental budgets. However, there are a number of additional activities that will require the approval of this Committee.
- 3.6** The outline plans for September 2017-March 2018 include:
- Shenyang**
- Attendance at the 3rd Annual Shenyang Smart Cities Summit on 21-23 September 2017. This will be an opportunity to showcase the Belfast Smart Cities

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**Roadmap and pipeline projects. It is anticipated that the cities of Belfast and Shenyang will reach agreement during the summit to develop and deliver a collaborative Smart Cities project**

- **Belfast City Council will seek to host a second inward business mission from the London Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Invest NI in late 2017**
- **Belfast City Council will support Chinese New Year 2018 in partnership with the Chinese Consulate General and Confucius Institute. The organisers have approached the Council to seek a contribution of £5,000 towards the celebrations. These will be held in Belfast City Hall and will involve a series of performances and local outreach events. The celebrations will take place over the period end of January to mid-February, 2018. Members are asked to consider this request for support, which has not yet been approved by this Committee.**

**Nashville:**

- **Nashville has confirmed that the City will lead an annual cross sectoral delegation to Belfast each Autumn. Officers are currently developing a programme for this visit from 2-6 October 2017. The Nashville delegation will consist of more than 12 representatives across a range of sectors including business, academia and legislature. Members of the Committee will be invited to meet the delegation over the course of the visit**
- **Ongoing support for student exchanges between Belfast schools and their Nashville counterparts, starting again in January 2018**
- **Visit to Nashville in late September 2017 by a creative industries and music business delegation, in partnership with the Nashville Entrepreneurship Centre**
- **Ongoing engagement with the Country Music Awards (CMA) to explore the potential of livestreaming the awards in Belfast or other broadcast opportunities, as well as the potential for some live music events in the city. This may form part of a future cultural celebration programme that will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and endorsement.**

**Boston**

- **Belfast City Council will hold a Belfast in Boston Week from 16-20 October 2017 showcasing tourism, cyber security, European Capital of Culture and Resilient**

**Cities cooperation. A programme for this visit is currently being finalised in conjunction with the Belfast lead contact in Boston as well as Invest NI. The visit will coincide with a global entrepreneurship event that will be taking place in Boston at the same time and there will be opportunities to profile Belfast-based entrepreneurs**

- **Belfast City Council will host 25 Boston delegates during the annual International Homecoming from 2-6 October 2017**
- **Belfast City Council is donating an organ donor arts sculpture to Boston on 3<sup>rd</sup> December as part of the global cities initiative to celebrate organ donorship**
- **Ulster University will enter into a collaborative arrangement with Emerson College, Boston on Animation**
- **Belfast City Council will co-host the 3rd annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament and Gala dinner in November 2017**
- **Belfast City Council will co-host the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Invitational Tournament in December 2017. In parallel with the event, the Council will host a business mission from Massachusetts**
- **The MAC will play host in October 2017 to a Beckett production that has been developed by a Harvard-based academic team**
- **Boston Visitor Convention Bureau Boston and Visit Belfast will co-operate to promote the Norwegian Airlines Belfast to Providence flight**
- **The Lord Mayor has been invited to launch the 2018 Friendship Four event in Boston in January 2018. Previous Lord Mayors have also attended this event which is an important element of raising the profile of the event. This visit will also provide an opportunity to start the process of engagement with potential new teams for future events. The Committee is asked to approve the Lord Mayor's attendance at this event, along with one officer at a maximum cost of £3,500. This budget has been set aside within the current Departmental budget.**

#### **London**

- **Belfast City Council to host a visit by the Lord Mayor of the City of London in October 2017. This will provide an opportunity to promote the City as a location for business and professional services investment**

- **Belfast City Council has sponsored the London-based Belfast Partners network. The network will host a series of events in the course of the next six months to encourage business-based collaborations between companies located in both cities and will collaborate with the Council on a number of these. The events will include a business mission and networking event in London on 22-23 November 2017. Recruitment will close soon for participating businesses and it is likely that 8-10 local companies take part in the mission. In addition to individually-organised programmes, the companies will take part in a networking reception in the City of London on the evening of 23 November. Given the opportunities for networking, business-to-business connections and city promotion, it is recommended that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee takes part in this visit. The costs will not exceed £1,000 and will be met from within existing Departmental budgets.**

#### **Wider Engagement**

- **Belfast has been nominated as the host city for the 2019 Commonwealth Local Government (CCLG) conference. This event takes place every 2 years and draws attendance from local authorities from across the Commonwealth area. The 2017 event takes place in Malta on 21 – 24 November 2017. As part of the promotion and engagement process associated with positioning Belfast possibly as the 2019 host city, it is proposed that the Chair of Committee (or nominee) and one officer attends the November 2017 event in Malta. The costs associated with attendance will not exceed £1,500.**

#### **3.7 Financial and Resource Implications**

**Costs associated with the above activities have been set aside within the existing Departmental budget.**

#### **3.8 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**The new International Relations Framework 2016-2021 has been equality screened and approved.”**

During discussion, the European and International Relations Manager confirmed to the Committee that they were aiming to get more schools involved in the exchange with Nashville.

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In response to a Member's comments regarding the promising work which was being undertaken by the China Stakeholder Group, the Director of Development agreed to circulate the minutes of the Group to the Committee.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Growing Businesses and the Economy**

**Other Voices Proposal**

The Director of Development provided the Committee with an update on the Other Voices event which was to be held in Belfast between 26th and 28th October. He reminded the Members that, at its meeting on 14th June, it had approved financial support of £40,000 towards the event.

He explained that planning work for the event was well underway, with the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts having been chosen as the hub for the concert and wraparound events. The Members noted that it was intended that the 2017 event would be a precursor to a larger multi-annual project based in the city to help position Belfast as an attractive, smart and creative city region which was a great place to live, work, visit, invest and do business.

The Committee was advised that the event was currently broadcast on RTE's television and digital platforms and had more than 16million views and more than 7,000 followers on YouTube.

The Director informed the Members that the event included a significant outreach programme, providing a number of engagement opportunities for local residents, young people and those involved in the cultural and arts sector. He outlined that four community engagement events targeted at young people would be held in venues in the North, South, East and West of the city, focusing on the opportunities for skills development and employment in the creative sector as well as demonstrating the impact of technology on all walks of life. The Members were advised that organisers would work with the Council as well as local schools and youth groups to encourage participation from key target groups.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

**Employability and Skills Framework:  
Council Support for Economic Inactivity**

(Mrs. L. Toland, Economic Initiatives and International Development Manager, attended in connection with this item)

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:**

- Update Members on the upcoming European Social Fund (ESF) kl. call and to seek approval on the proposed Council approach, subject to funding availability in the coming financial years
- Seek in-principle approval to continue development work with partners on a number of Employment Academies and additional skills development initiatives for economically inactive individuals, subject to funding availability in the coming financial year
- Update Members on engagement with the sector to develop a Digital Skills support programme for young people and their teachers and youth leaders
- Seek approval to invest in the expansion of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre to support the growth of the legal services technologies sector.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

### **2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the update on the upcoming ESF funding call
- Approve the recommended approach for Council with regard to the upcoming ESF funding call as outlined in 3.14-3.17, subject to funding availability in the coming financial years
- Seek in-principle approval to continue development work with partners on a number of Employment Academies and additional skills development initiatives for economically inactive individuals, subject to funding availability in the coming financial year;
- Approve the proposed approach for a Digital Skills Programme working in partnership with Makematic
- Approve the proposal and associated budget to support the expansion of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre to create a globally-recognised Centre of Excellence;
- Note the approval of the activities listed above is dependent upon Legal Services agreeing a suitable form of Legal Agreement with the parties to be funded.

## **3.0 Main Report**

### **Key Issues**

- ### **3.1**
- Members will be aware that the Council, with its key partners, developed an Employability and Skills Framework for the City.



This sets a number of targets around improvements in employment rates and skills levels for Belfast residents.

**3.2 The Framework notes the need for interventions across a range of areas including:**

- **Economic Inactivity: deep-rooted challenge which has a disproportionate impact in some areas of the City. Economically inactive individuals often face multiple challenges in finding work, including health problems, childcare, lack of relevant skills**
- **Upskilling of people in low-level, low-paid work: in an increasingly flexible labour market, it is important to consider how people not only move into employment but also move up the skills ladder – and have the associated benefits in terms of increased income**
- **High skills: research indicates that there will be a growing need for higher level skills in the workplace. There is a need for greater focus to ensure greater alignment between growth areas and skills investment in order to ensure that the City remains globally competitive.**

**3.3 The Belfast Agenda also identifies the themes of ‘Growing the Economy’ and ‘Working and Learning’ as two of the fundamental pillars of future City development. The Belfast Agenda includes a number of commitments including supporting an additional 50,000 jobs in the City by 2035, ensuring that every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential and increasing the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 and above skills, in line with future labour market developments.**

**3.4 Over the last year, the Council has worked with partners to develop a number of collaborative initiatives to address some of the challenges identified above. Given the scale of the challenge, activities have focused on the economically inactive at this stage. However, there have been investments across all areas. Some of the headline outcomes to date include:**

- **Over 3,600 residents have accessed employability interventions of whom approximately 750 have entered employment/self-employment**
- **Over 550 training accreditations have been supported of which over 200 are at level two qualifications or above**

- Almost 4,000 young people have participated in enterprise engagement and skills development activities in schools across the City
- Working in partnership with key stakeholders a range of job fairs have been held attracting over 2,800 attendees
- 150 individuals have benefited from work placements across all Council departments.

3.5 There are a number of emerging opportunities for Council engagement in new activity that require the authority of this Committee in order to proceed. These include:

- Collaborative investment in European Social Fund (ESF) projects to work with targeted economically inactive individuals
- Development of additional 'Employment Academies' in areas of job growth, including hospitality, construction and social care
- Development of high growth skills area to create 'niche' areas for the City. These include legal technology through the newly-established Legal Technology Centre.

3.6 In order to present the 'full picture' of the City challenges in this area and the proposed Council approach to address these challenges – in conjunction with partner organisations – a report will be presented to the next meeting of this Committee to give a clear overview and to set out the overall direction of travel.

3.7 Collaborative investment in European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) provides funding for activity to help key target groups (long-term unemployed, economically inactive, those not in education, employment or training (NEETs)) to find work. On 11 September 2017, the Department for the Economy will release the final funding call for the ESF Programme 2014-2020, for projects to be delivered from April 2018 to March 2022. The available budget for this call is expected to be approximately £176 million over the four-year period, incorporating match funding from private and public sector sources.

3.8 The last call for projects took place in 2015 and funded projects will conclude in March 2018. Up to 65 projects are being supported across Northern Ireland with approximately 50% of these operating from and/or within the Belfast area. Members will be aware that the Council is currently match

funding five of these projects (providing up to 35% of project costs). These projects are:

- LEMIS+ delivered by the LEMIS Partnership
- Jobworks project delivered by Springboard
- SPEC Programme delivered by Women's TEC
- The Connect Programme delivered by Women in Business
- Pathway to Work programme delivered by Workforce.

**3.9** The Council is also funding a number of stand-alone projects, not currently in receipt of ESF. These are:

- Training for Employment project delivered by Lenadoon Community Forum
- Community Employment Programme delivered by Shankill Women's Centre.

**3.10** Across the three-year delivery timeframe (April 2015 – March 2018) these projects are expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Around 10,000 individuals engaged into employability-related support
- 2,000 individuals moved into employment (almost 700 jobs supported per year).

**3.11** The Council investment over a three-year period has been £720,000 against total expenditure of over £11 million. This represents an overall cost per job of £5,500. The cost per job to the Council is £360. The rest of the match funding comes from the ESF support or from other match-funding investment.

**3.12** As part of the Council's due diligence process around its investment in these projects, a review was undertaken to consider the impact of the projects and to look at how future engagement with ESF could contribute to the Council's commitment to address the challenge of economic inactivity in the City. Key findings from this review included:

- The projects have been effective in engaging the hardest to reach and those within the most deprived communities. Almost 60% of participants were from the top 10% most deprived wards
- Project participants are typically presenting multiple barriers to employment including a lack of self-confidence, mental health issues, limited/no work experience, lack of affordable childcare, poor

employability skills. This means that the support mechanisms need to be flexible to meet the needs of these individuals. There also needs to be better engagement with local support services e.g. healthcare providers

- ESF funding can only cover costs associated with training up to Level 1 (GCSE grades D-G). This makes it difficult to address the low skills issue identified above
- There is a growing challenge of Mental Health issues: while needs are increasing, there is insufficient support available to meet demand.

3.13 The fact that ESF is administered by the Department for the Economy (DfE) through an open call means that the Council can only have limited influence on the selection process and funding allocations. Nonetheless, the level of resources available represents a significant investment in provision and there are opportunities to consider how the Council can work alongside selected projects as part of the solution to addressing economic inactivity in the City and the challenges set out above.

3.14 Officers have already been approached by a number of potential projects with a view to seeking match funding from the Council. Recognising the limitations highlighted above, as well as the need to concentrate resources on areas of most need, it is proposed that the Council continues to provide match-funding support for ESF but that it focuses investment on a small number of projects that demonstrate the potential for maximum impact, in line with Belfast Agenda commitments.

3.15 In order establish a transparent process for projects that may be seeking Council match-funding, it is proposed that Officers organise an information event outlining how requests will be assessed. Details of criteria will be provided. It is recommended that these include:

- Scalability of delivery such as city-wide provision
- Alignment of provision to local area needs
- Assessment of ability to deliver on targets (taking account of existing provision in the area)
- Prioritising economic inactivity client groups (e.g. lone parents)
- Provision of wrap-around services (e.g. health support, childcare)
- Partnership/collaborative approaches

- Progression routes (to further support/into employment)
- Employer engagement support (enterprise support for start-up projects)
- Financial sustainability
- Minimum targets for helping people into employment/self-employment.

**3.16** The closing date for applications is 13 October 2017. At that point, project applicants will be expected to indicate that they have engaged with potential match funders albeit that the commitment is not binding until a match funding certificate is signed (this only happens once the project receives a Letter of Offer). It is therefore recommended that Officers make an assessment of projects seeking match funding from the Council based on the above criteria. A report will then be presented to a future meeting of this Committee outlining the proposed projects to be supported, including the financial allocation recommended for each.

**3.17** It is proposed an annual funding allocation of up to £250,000 will be set aside by the Council for these match-funded projects. Based on investment in previous projects of this nature, this investment has the potential to support around 700 unemployed and economically inactive people per year to find a job. This will be an annual funding requirement, for a period of up to four years. The funding allocation has to be agreed on an annual basis, subject to performance.

**3.18** Employment Academies and wraparound support

One of the major shortcomings of ESF is that it can only provide training up to Level 1 and wraparound services such as personal development support or aftercare mentoring may be limited. Likewise, the level of employer-led intervention is variable across projects and small-scale project delivery agents do not have employer connections at the appropriate level. To overcome this, the Council has been working on a number of sectoral 'Employment Academies'. These are targeted interventions based on available job opportunities. Employers are involved in the design process and guarantee all participants an interview for available jobs. Candidates are recruited from ESF and other employability interventions. Whereas the average employment outcomes for ESF projects are around 25%, the seven Hospitality Academies delivered by the Council and its partners last year achieved an into-employment rate of 60%. This meant that, from the 100 programme participants, 60 are now in employment.

**3.19** Based on the success of the Hospitality Academy model, officers have been approached by employers from other sectors including social care and construction. These employers are willing to provide an employment pipeline of available job opportunities and will guarantee participants an interview for the posts. There will also be a large-scale Hospitality Academy programme with a number of the flagship new hotel investments in the City over the coming six months. The Hospitality Academy alone will provide employment opportunities for up to 175 unemployed and economically inactive. In addition, the other Academy programmes (construction and social care) will help at least 100 individuals to move into employment through these interventions over the next 12 months.

**3.20** Development of Digital Skills

At the August 2017 meeting of City Growth & Regeneration Committee, approval was given to ring-fence a budget of £60,000 for the development of Digital Skills in young people. Officers noted that they would engage with key organisations already involved in activity in this field to look at how the Council could best support this agenda.

**3.21** Following engagement with relevant providers, there is an opportunity to add value to a regional Digital Skills campaign being delivered by Makematic and funded by Bank of Ireland. This programme aims to build the capacity of Teachers and Teaching Assistants in order to improve the quality of digital skills education for young people. The current programme is limited to online support, however, with additional resources from the Council, there is an opportunity to add value by supporting more schools across Belfast to access the content as well as providing in-school support and workshop sessions to share best practice.

**3.22** The proposed added value programme would also incorporate participation by community groups and provide the opportunity for pupils to compete in digital skills challenges culminating in showcase events. It is expected that up to 200 young people will be engaged in these challenges enabling young people to practically utilise digital skills. Through this project, it is proposed that a minimum of 30 schools (primary and post primary) and community organisations across Belfast will be engaged. Development of this project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Executive's Urban Villages Programme. It will also link with the Council's Superconnected Communities programme as well as the technology programmes proposed as part of the

**'Other Voices' event in Belfast at the end of October 2017 and places will be set aside in the Other Voices programme for participants from the Makematic initiative.**

**3.23 Legal Innovation Centre: support for expansion**

**The Financial, Business and Professional Services sectors are identified as key growth areas within the Belfast economy. One emerging niche area within this wider sector is that of legal technology. This growth is being driven by technological advancement, globalisation and regulatory reform in the industry.**

**3.24 Belfast is already home to a number of global legal practices. Many are moving from providing back and mid-office facilities towards establishing Centres of Excellence that can service their international operations. This expertise is being developed in conjunction with local education providers – either through joint skills development initiatives or through new areas of research and development.**

**3.25 In response to growing demand, Ulster University established a Legal Innovation Centre to bring together research into the application, development and impact of new technology as well as opportunities for training current and future lawyers in legal technology skills. This is a unique collaboration between the Computer Science and Legal disciplines at the University. It was established in February 2017 and has been funded through private sector investment (Allen & Overy and Baker McKenzie) along with Invest NI. Since its launch, the Centre has gained local and international recognition, and is already working with both foreign direct investors and indigenous legal companies.**

**3.26 The private sector funding has supported researchers to work on a number of targeted projects. However this means that there is limited scope for future business development to support the future growth of the Centre. Following engagement with the Centre Management Team, an opportunity has been identified for the Council to invest in the expansion of the Centre.**

**3.27 This investment would align with the Council's aspirations to support the development of key growth sectors through the expansion of indigenous companies as well as attracting new foreign direct investors. The Committee recently agreed that this should be one of the priority areas of focus within the Committee Plan. This would involve an investment of £50,000 to support a research resource for a period of 18 months.**

The Council investment would be matched by resources from other private and public sector partners. The deliverables from this investment will include an increase in the number of local and international clients; enhanced international profile of the Centre and opportunity for the City to develop a niche area of expertise (this is currently the only Centre of its type in the UK) in a sector that demonstrates significant growth potential in highly-skilled and well-paid jobs. There will also be opportunities for collaboration with local ICT and legal companies, allowing them to diversify and develop niche skills and products which may be able to be exported to other markets. This is a similar model to the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) which is based at Titanic Quarter and Members recently received a presentation on the work of this organisation.

**3.28** Members will be aware that FDI investors have a ‘wish list’ of elements that they look for in a potential investment location. These include talent as well as research and innovation capability as well as issue such as quality of life and accessibility. 70% of research and development undertaken in the local universities is of world-class standard. In some disciplines (e.g. cyber), this figure stands at 90%. The Council support will help towards the development of a Centre for Excellence which will help to attract more investment into Belfast.

**3.29** Equality and good relations implications:

The investment to support economic inactivity will focus on under-represented groups as well as disadvantaged groups. Efforts will be made to ensure that programme delivery takes place all across the City and that it is accessible to all. Economic Development Officers and delivery partners will work closely with the Council’s Equality and Good Relations Officers to ensure compliance.

**3.30** Financial and resources implications:

The financial implications of each of the elements above is as follows:

**3.31** European Social Fund

It is proposed that up to £250,000 is set aside from within the departmental budgets for 2018/2019 to support the priority projects, subject to agreement of the budget estimates for this coming year. Please note the levels of funding proposed are in line with current departmental funding levels. It is also



proposed that in-principle support of £250,000 match funding is set aside for a further three years (2019/2020; 2020/2021 and 2021/2022), subject to satisfactory performance and subject to budget availability in each of those financial years.

#### **Employment Academies Support**

It is proposed that a maximum of £250,000 is set aside for the Employment Academies for the financial year 2018/2019. Please note the levels of funding proposed are in line with current departmental funding levels. This will be an in-principle allocation, subject to partner engagement and the ability to deliver employment opportunities in each of the sectors. It will also be subject to agreement on the budget estimates for the coming year, as part of the rates process.

#### **Digital Skills**

Budget allocation for digital skills has already been approved by City Growth & Regeneration Committee. The £60,000 budget allocated for this activity is available within the existing Departmental 2017/18 budgets.

#### **Legal Innovation Centre**

A budget of £50,000 is required to support the expansion of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre. The financial resources have been set aside as part of the programme to support key growth sectors in the 2017/2018 Departmental budget."

A Member stated that it was important to retain the use of local grassroots groups, which were able to engage with the hardest to reach groups within local communities.

The Economic Initiatives and International Development Manager advised the Committee that, while the Council had limited control on the selection process and funding allocations, it could look at targeting certain geographical areas or specific target groups.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

### **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

#### **CG&R Financial Report - Q1 2017/18**

The Chief Executive presented the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to the Members. She advised them that the Quarter 1 (Q1) position for the Committee was an under spend of £128,000 (2.6%), with the forecast year end position being an underspend of £461,000 (2.9%) which was within the acceptable tolerance which was 3%.

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The Committee was advised that the current position related to vacant posts across a number of services and receipt of additional income of Off Street Car Parking charges.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

Chairperson

## Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 20th September, 2017

### MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Carson (Deputy Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);  
Alderman L. Patterson; and  
Councillors Bell, Boyle, Clarke, Collins, Craig,  
Groves, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson,  
McConville and McReynolds.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;  
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

(Councillor Dudgeon attended within thirty minutes of the commencement of the meeting but subsequent to the business having been concluded.)

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Alderman Spence) and Councillors Heading and Campbell.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 16th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

The Democratic Services Officer declared an interest in respect of agenda item 2(a), Application for the Grant of a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence – 21 Social, 1 Hill Street, in that he was related to the applicant. Accordingly, he left the meeting whilst the application was under consideration and was replaced by Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)**

#### **Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority**

The Committee noted a list of licences and permits which had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

**Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual  
Outdoor Entertainments Licence – 21 Social, 1 Hill Street**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

- 1.1 To consider an application for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and for permission to provide entertainment till 2.00 am at 21 Social, based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment.**

<b>Area and Location</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>
21 Social 1 Hill Street Belfast BT1 2LA.	WK/201702078	Mr. Henry Downey Eagle-Glen Limited 27 Drumard Road Knockloughrim Magherafelt.

- 1.2 A copy of the application form and a location map has been circulated to Members.**
- 1.3 Members are reminded that all applications for the grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences must be brought before the Committee for consideration.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations made in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:**
- 1. approve the application for the grant of the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and for permission to provide entertainment till 2.00 a m, or**
  - 2. approve the application for the grant with special conditions, or**
  - 3. refuse the application for the grant of the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and for permission to provide entertainment till 2.00 a.m.**
- 2.2 If an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council’s decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal,**

outdoor entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 The applicant has applied to provide entertainment within the new outdoor area, in line with the premises Indoor Entertainments Licence, on the following days and hours:**

- **Monday to Saturday: 11.30 am to 2.00 am the following morning, and**
- **Sunday: 12.30 pm to 2.00 am the following morning**

**3.2 Members are reminded that applications to provide outdoor entertainment beyond the permitted hours are subject to consideration by Committee.**

**3.3 The applicant proposes to provide entertainment within the new outdoor area in the form of DJs and live bands. The outdoor area is now covered by the liquor Licence for the premises. The Committee has been provided with layout plans of the new outdoor area.**

**3.4 The premises have recently been acquired by Eagle-Glen Limited and they have created the new outdoor area as part of their refurbishment of the premises.**

**3.5 Eagle-Glen Limited is also the licensee for a number of other licensed premises across the City, namely, the Apartment, 2 Donegall Square West; The Kitchen Bar, 1 Victoria Square and McHugh's Bar, 29-31 Queen's Square.**

**Representations**

**3.6 Public notice of the application has been placed and no written representation has been lodged as a result of the advertisement.**

**PSNI**

**3.7 The Police Service of Northern Ireland has been consulted and has confirmed that it has no objection to the application. A copy of its response has been circulated to the Committee.**

**NIFRS**

- 3.8 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service was also consulted and has no objection to the application.

**Health, Safety and Welfare**

- 3.9 The premise has been subject to inspections as part of the Entertainments Licence application process and the works carried out under the Building Regulations application.
- 3.10 The premises have also been subject to regular during performance inspections as part of our inspection regime. A total of two during performance inspections have been carried out since the Indoor Entertainments Licence was last renewed.
- 3.11 As a result, all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures to safeguard the safety of the public, performers and staff have been checked. No issues have been observed during the inspections.

**Noise**

- 3.12 An acoustic report outlining the measures to be taken when outdoor entertainment is being provided has been received and assessed by the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU). The report outlines the measures to be put in place to minimise disturbance to neighbouring premises, either due to noise breakout or from patron activity.
- 3.13 The report proposes for music to be limited to 69dB Laeq 5min at one metre from speakers, thus the noise from the venue will be inaudible at the nearest noise sensitive premises. The report allows for a 50m of distance attenuation and 15dB of attenuation provided by the screening of surrounding buildings and concludes that this would result in a façade measurement of 30dB at the nearest noise sensitive premises.
- 3.14 Having assessed the acoustic report and various measures being put in place, EPU are of the opinion that the noise from the area of the premises will not adversely impact on nearby noise sensitive premises.
- 3.15 Should Members be of a mind to grant the outdoor licence, it is suggested that a condition requiring amplified music to be limited to 69dB Laeq 5min at one metre from the speakers be attached to the licence.

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- 3.16 Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.**

**Applicant**

- 3.17 The applicant, and/or their representatives, will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.18 Officers will be required to carry out inspections for each outdoor event and attend any planning meetings which are catered for within existing budgets.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications**

- 3.19 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.”**

The Committee agreed to grant a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for 21 Social, 1 Hill Street, with a condition to be attached requiring amplified music to be limited to 69dB Laeq 5min at one metre from the speakers.

**Non-Delegated Matters**

**Review of Licence Fees for Sex Establishments**

The Committee was informed that, under Article 4 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Council had powers relating to the licensing of sex establishments.

The Building Control Manager explained that, whilst the Order stipulated that a person applying for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence should pay a reasonable fee, as determined by the Council, it differed from the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, insofar as it did not specify a procedure for the Council to follow in determining that fee.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 15th June, 2016, it had agreed the following schedule of fees for the licensing of sex establishments and had agreed also that those should be reviewed on an annual basis:

<b>Application Fee</b>	<b>£3,200</b>
<b>Renewal Fee</b>	<b>£1,430</b>
<b>Transfer Fee</b>	<b>£1,125</b>
<b>Licence Fee</b>	<b>£500</b>

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He reported that a review of the current costs associated with the processing of a Sex Establishment Licence had indicated that they were in line with those of the previous year and, on that basis, he recommended that the fees which had been agreed in 2016 by the Committee should remain unchanged.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Provision of Training for the Licensing Committee**

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that it had delegated authority for determining applications for amusement permits, entertainments licences, pavement cafés, road closures, sex establishments and street trading and for commenting on those relating to Liquor Licences and the registration of clubs. It was responsible also for the consideration of all policies and legislation governing licensing issues.

He reported that the Committee had, in the past, received training on specific topics, with a view to assisting it in discharging its duties and suggested that, in light of recent changes in its membership and its evolving role, this might be an opportune time to initiate a further training programme. The programme would be developed by the Building Control Service and the Legal Services Section and would be delivered by a member of the legal profession who specialised in licensing matters. Accordingly, he sought the Members' views on the format of the training programme and to identify any topics which they wished to have included.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the training should focus upon the Licensing Committee Protocol and representation process, the legal principles governing the decision-making process and alcohol licensing matters and its relationship to entertainments licensing. The Committee agreed also that the programme should be delivered over two sessions in November/December and should commence at 5.00 p.m.

Chairperson



## Planning Committee

Tuesday, 19th September, 2017

### MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);  
Alderman McGimpsey;  
Councillors Armitage, Bunting, Carson,  
Dorrian, Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson,  
Johnston, Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown  
and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place;  
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

No apologies were reported.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 8.d) LA04/2017/0623/F and LA04/2017/0628/DCA Single storey rear extension, rear dormer and first floor extension to rear and first floor front extension at 10 Broomhill Park, Councillor McDonough-Brown declared an interest, in so far as he had submitted an objection to the proposal.

### Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 15th August, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 31st August in respect of planning applications LA04/2016/0400/F - Apartment development (28 units) on lands at 230 Belmont Road and LA04/2015/0670/F - Residential development of 53 units comprising 33 detached, 4 semi-detached and 16 apartments on lands at Castlehill Manor, Castlehill Road.

The Committee also noted that the detailed input by Transport NI at the Belmont Road site visit had been helpful and appreciated.

### Planning Appeals Notified

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission,

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together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

**Planning Decisions Notified**

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under delegated authority by the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 8th August and 8th September, 2017.

**Departmental Performance Update**

The Committee noted that up to date statutory performance figures had not been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and agreed that if an update was received from DfI before the next Planning Committee, it would be circulated to the Members of the Committee.

**Abandonments and Extinguishments of Public Rights of Way**

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Democratic Services Officer tabled correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to an abandonment order at the Glenwood Green, Dunmurry and the Committee noted the contents of the letter.

The Committee also noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at:

- Lawther Court;
- Mountpottinger Way;
- Annalee Court;
- Hopewell Crescent; and
- Bandon Court.

**Miscellaneous Items**

**Presentation by Historic Environment Division on Listed Buildings**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. G. Sloan, Assistant Director, Historic Environment Division from the Department for Communities Heritage Buildings Designation Branch.

Mr. Sloan provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Historic Environment Division (HED) and advised that the listing of buildings was underpinned by legislation. He informed the Committee that address information of all listed buildings could be found in the Northern Ireland Buildings Database on the HED website together with detailed descriptions and evaluations of all buildings listed and unlisted, which had been surveyed in detail since 1997.

He highlighted that Section 80(7) of the 2011 Planning Act stated:

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- *'In this Act "listed building" meant that a building which was, for the time being, included in a list compiled under this section; and, for the purposes of the provisions of this Act related to listed buildings, the following should be treated as part of the building:*
  - *any object or structure within the curtilage of the building and fixed to the building; and*
  - *any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, formed part of the land and had done so since before 1st October, 1973.'*

He advised that the First Survey of Listed Buildings had been undertaken from 1969 to 1995 and the Second Survey had commenced in 1997. He informed the Committee that the Second Survey was more comprehensive and included detailed records, both written and photographic, and also compiled historical research. He pointed out that its decisions were based upon clearly established criteria and that the process was as follows:

- A desktop exercise using historic maps etc. to identify potential listings;
- On-the-ground scoping survey of an area;
- Initial group evaluation to establish the need for a survey;
- Survey and record;
- Group evaluation to determine proposed listing;
- Statutory consultation with the Historical Buildings Council (HBC) and appropriate local council;
- Evaluation of responses and representations; and
- Director sign-off.

He advised that clarification of the Department's interpretation of the legislative criteria was set out in detail in Annex C of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6) and explained how the Department interpreted the legislative criteria of: Architectural Interest; Historic Interest; Group Value; and Features and Structures. He pointed out that standards were established under the following grading system:

- Grade A - Buildings of national importance including both outstanding grand buildings and the fine, little altered examples of some important style or date;
- Grade B+ - High quality buildings that because of exceptional features, interiors or environmental qualities were clearly above the general standard set by grade B1 buildings. Also, buildings which might have merited Grade A status but for detracting features such as an incomplete design, lower quality additions or alterations;
- Grade B1 - good examples of a particular period or style. A degree of alteration or imperfection of design might be acceptable. Generally B1 – buildings that qualify for listing by virtue of a relatively wide selection of attributes; and
- Grade B2 - buildings which meet the test of the legislation, but exhibit a degree of alteration or imperfection of design.

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He also provided an overview of the statutory engagement in the listing process as follows:

- Statutory consultations were made to the Historic Buildings Council (HBC) and the local council;
- The council and HBC are given an overview at the commencement of a new area survey;
- HBC receives a full evaluation report of each record in advance of its (monthly) meeting;
- A presentation, including exterior and interior images, of each proposed listing or delisting is made at the HBC meeting;
- HBC discusses and votes on each proposed listing;
- At the same time as the HBC, the local council is given a six-week consultation period;
- Council and HBC advice (which should be based on the listing criteria) does not determine grading;
- HED considers the local council, HBC and other representations;
- Recommendation would be made to the Director;
- Director might agree, disagree or seek further information on the recommendation; and
- Council and HBC are informed of the final outcome.

During discussion, Members were apprised of further information regarding the potential of grants for maintenance of listed buildings, listed building consent, the rights of owners of listed buildings, right of access (statutory provision), the weight of the Council's opinion and the anticipated time period for completion of the Second Survey.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Sloan for attending and the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

(Councillor Bunting entered the Committee meeting at this point.)

**Proposed Listed Buildings**

(Councillor Carson had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The Committee was reminded that Article 80 (3) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 required the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

The Committee was also reminded that, at its meeting on 15th August, it had agreed to defer consideration of the listing of 30 Malone Park so that further clarification could be sought from the Historic Environment Division regarding the process that had been undertaken to list the property.

The Committee received a deputation from Dr. B. Austin, resident of 30 Malone Park, in objection to the Listing of the Building. He suggested that he had received unfair treatment from the Heritage Buildings Designation Branch (HBDB) and he was concerned with the criteria and listing process. He suggested that his home was 'ordinary' when

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compared to the other buildings in Malone Park and would contend that the conditions for B2 Listings were not applicable to his property. He suggested that he felt threatened by the correspondence from the HBDB, and that as his property was not gated, access had been easily gained by the surveyors and his house had been an opportunistic target.

During points of clarification, Dr. Austin suggested that there had been an invasion of privacy, listing his residence would cause additional maintenance costs, make his property a more onerous burden, and possibly effect internal works that might be required in the near future for his disabled wife.

Mr. Sloan clarified that 30 Malone Park had not been singled out to be listed. He suggested that although correspondence to Dr. Austin had stated the statutory legislation, it was made clear that access would be sought by agreement and that they had no wish to pressure him for access at present. He also confirmed that Conservation Area protection was treated separately from the Listing of Building protection and pointed out that the Listing of a Building did not preclude alteration or demolition of a building, but such requests would be deliberated via the Planning Process.

During discussion, the Director highlighted that the listing of buildings process was based on a criteria and personal circumstances of occupiers were not material to the listing of a building. He reiterated that alterations or amendments to a listed building could still take place, subject to planning policy.

The Committee was advised that correspondence had also been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) seeking the Council's views in respect of proposals for the listing of 56 – 164 North Street, and 166 – 174 North Street.

After discussion, the Committee rejected the proposed listing of 30 Malone Park as it did not meet the criteria for listing and supported the proposed listings of the following buildings by the Department for Communities:

- 156 – 164 North Street, Belfast, BT1 1LF; and
- 166 – 174 North Street, Belfast, BT1 1QS.

**Article 4 Direction**

(Councillors Garrett, Hussey and Magee had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The Committee was reminded that it had previously agreed to the undertake a public consultation exercise in order to ascertain the level of support for Article 4 Directions to be issued within Adelaide Park and Malone Park Conservation Areas. The directions would enable the Council to restrict permitted development rights associated with householder development that could currently be undertaken without the need for planning permission and it was agreed that, should sufficient support be demonstrated for the proposal, Article 4 Directions would be issued.

It was reported that a survey was carried out in July to ascertain the level of support for Article 4 Directions and a previous consultation had also been carried out in

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2016. This second consultation was considered to be necessary due to an error made in the first consultation in that information on the associated fee of £64 should have been included.

An overview of the recent public consultation was provided and it was reported that the results demonstrated that a majority of residents had supported the introduction of Article 4 Directions within Adelaide Park and Malone Park Conservation Areas. Therefore, it had been recommended to serve Notice of Article 4 Directions in both areas to cover the following points:

- Replacing window frames and doors to front elevations and side elevations;
- Painting the exterior of houses;
- The creation of porches to external doors;
- The erection of gates, fences, walls or other means of enclosure within the curtilage of a property. This would apply anywhere within the curtilage of the property in the case of Adelaide Park and from the front building line of the property to the front boundary in the case of Malone Park; and
- The creation of hardstanding to front lawns.

The Committee agreed to serve Notice of Article 4 Directions in Adelaide Park and Malone Park Conservation Areas restricting some of the householder permitted development rights as outlined and noted that these Directions would require the approval of the Department for Infrastructure prior to final implementation.

(Councillors Carson, Garrett, Hussey and Magee returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**Withdrawn Items**

The Committee noted that item 3. - The response to consultation requests from Department for Infrastructure – Transport Hub, and item 9. i) LA04/2017/1008/F and LA04/2017/1010/LBC - Demolition of single storey rear extension and partially 2 storey rear extension with internal alterations and the erection of 2 storey rear extension and bin/cycle store at 12 Upper Crescent had been withdrawn from the agenda.

**Additional Item – Operation of the Planning Committee**

(Councillors Bunting, Hussey and McDonough-Brown had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

With the permission of the Chairperson, Alderman McGimpsey questioned the allegations of sectarian voting during the consideration of Planning Applications by the Planning Committee which had been made by Councillor Magee at the Council Meeting on 4th September.

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Councillor Magee advised that the comments he had made at the Council meeting had not implied that any of the planning staff were sectarian and that further discussion was required on the assertions that had been made at the Council meeting.

The Chairperson stated that the Committee meeting was not the correct forum for this discussion and called the debate to a close.

(Councillors Bunting, Hussey and McDonough-Brown returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**Planning Applications**

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE  
POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)**

**Reconsidered Item - LA04/2016/0400/F Apartment development (28 units) on lands at 230 Belmont Road**

(Councillor McDonough-Brown had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th August, given the issues which had been raised regarding the traffic and impact on the trees, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand and that the Committee also had agreed that the Council's Tree Officer be invited to attend the site visit and Transport NI asked for clarification on their position and attend the next Planning Committee, if possible.

The case officer provided an overview of the report and highlighted that a site visit had taken place on 31st August, at which the Council's Tree Officer and a representative from the Department for Infrastructure had been in attendance and answered a range of queries.

During discussion, one Member requested that an additional condition be included in the approval regarding child safety signage at the site.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

**Reconsidered Item - LA04/2015/0670/F Residential development of 53 units comprising 33 detached, 4 semi-detached and 16 apartments on lands at Castlehill Manor, Castlehill Road.**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th August, given the issues which had been raised regarding access and drainage at the site, it had been agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

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The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, an additional objection had been received from Mr. R. Tunnicliffe (Party Secretary, Green Party), which suggested the following points:

- Lack of Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Impact on protected species (bats) – Bat Survey might be required;
- Lack of Adequate Community Consultation;
- Query in relation to recommended condition by Rivers Agency;
- Query in relation to gardens of dwellings being within floodplain;  
and
- Questioned why no ground condition survey had been submitted given the risk of flooding and subsidence within area.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. R. Tunnicliffe, representing the Green Party. He outlined a range of objections to the case officer's recommendation for approval which included residents' concerns, the lack of environmental impact assessment determination, designation of the site under BMAP as a site of local conservation importance and the potential of a legal challenge if the proposal was approved. He suggested that a deferral would be appropriate so that the issue of subsidence could be addressed.

During discussion, the case officer reiterated that a scoping determination exercise had been completed and that an environmental statement was not required. He highlighted that adequate geotechnical solutions for foundations and associated structures were subject to separate legislative control and it was a matter for the developer to secure an appropriate engineering solution.

The Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

**Reconsidered Item - LA04/2016/0487/F - Change of use from dwelling to a coffee shop at ground floor and first floor store and a single storey side and rear extension at 1 St. Agnes Drive.**

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Bunting and Carson took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 20th June when it had originally been considered).

(Councillor Dorrian had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)



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The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th June, given the issues which had been raised regarding car parking and the impact on residential amenity, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application in order to undertake a site visit to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The case officer pointed out that, at its meeting on 20th June, the Committee had received a case officer's report with a recommendation to approve the proposal (copy available [here](#)) and since then, further objections had been received from residents regarding car parking and anti-social behaviour. She advised that reassessment of the proposal had taken place and had taken account of the issues which had been raised by objectors and by Members of the Planning Committee.

She highlighted that having re-assessed the impact on neighbouring residents, as outlined in the report, it was recommended that the application was refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposal was contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) and Development Control Advice Note 4 'Restaurants, Cafes and Fast Food Outlets' in that the use would, if permitted, harm the living conditions of neighbouring residential properties through odours, noise, nuisance, and general disturbance resulting in a detrimental impact on residential amenity;
2. The proposal was contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland in that, if permitted, would create conflict with adjacent land uses in respect of over dominance, loss of light, and overshadowing; and
3. The proposal was contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland, in that it would, if permitted, cause unacceptable damage to the character of the area due to the uncharacteristic design, scale and mass of the proposal.

The Committee received representations from Mrs. C. Webb and Mr. J. Webb. They outlined a range of objections to the proposal which included the impact on parking, the lack of consultation by the developer, the scale of the building, and the impact the proposal would have on residents and their family life.

The Committee received representation from Mr. P. Morgan, agent, representing the applicant. He indicated that he was concerned that residents had spoken with Councillors who had attended the site visit and questioned the procedure of site visits. He raised concerns regarding the reversal of the case officer's recommendation and suggested that the overshadowing which had been outlined in the report was not an issue as the height of the proposal was not excessive. He pointed out that an acoustic study had been carried out which detailed construction measures to protect the residential amenity of the neighbouring property and questioned why no explanation had been given by the Planning Department to the change in opinion of this issue. He highlighted that Environmental Health had no objection to the proposal and odour emissions measures had also been agreed. He clarified that the application was for a coffee shop not for a hot-food takeaway, and suggested that food odours would be minimal. He questioned why

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the reasons for refusal had been acceptable in the initial case officer's report but had now been reversed by the Planning Department. He stated that he had attempted to contact the Planning Office regarding the change in recommendation but had not been given the opportunity to respond. He suggested that the building had a history of commercial consent and had been vacant for 10 - 12 years. He suggested that the acoustic report carried out at the property had referenced a noise level of 61 Db, therefore, the site was not suitable for residential use. He also stated that Transport NI did not have any objection to the proposal.

The Divisional Solicitor reminded the Committee that the operating protocol was clear, in that Members of the Committee were not allowed to engage with applicants and objectors at site visits. She advised Members that if there had been engagement with members of the public at the site visit, then they should not take part in determining the outcome of the application. The planning officer also advised that, at the site visit, it was made clear to residents of the purpose of the site visit and it had been explained that applicants or objectors could not take part or enter into discussion with the Members present.

During discussion, one Member questioned how the change in the case officer's recommendation had been arrived at. The case officer advised that, after issues had been raised by the Committee and objectors at the Committee in June, further consideration had been given to the potential conditions of the approval to assess if they would be reasonable, measurable and enforceable. She advised that the outcome of the review had raised significant impact to the neighbouring properties and that the previous conditions would have been very difficult to meet. The Director clarified that the officers had listened to the debate, benefited from the subsequent site visit, and considered it appropriate to alter the recommendation to refusal.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

(Alderman McGimpsey, Councillors Carson and Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**LA04/2017/0623/F and LA04/2017/0628/DCA - Single storey rear extension, rear dormer and first floor extension to rear and a first floor front extension at 10 Broomhill Park**

(Councillor McDonough-Brown, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

(Councillor Bunting had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following points of objection had been received from the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society:

- First floor front extension above the garage was not subordinate to the main building. The proposed extension was in conflict with the

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'Design and Development Guidance' set out in the Design Guide 5.2.32 *'an extension should be subordinate to the main building in terms of form and massing'*;

- In addition, Section 5.2.47 of the guide stated that *'it would not be appropriate to add another storey to an original single storey attached garage at an Inter War residence'*;
- The proposed extension failed to meet the Design Guide's criteria, and would greatly impact the massing of the building frontage where no such precedent was evident in the Broomhill locale, either for front elevation extensions or first floor extensions above garages;
- The roof profile and roof silhouette both at the front and rear were also subject to alteration with the proposed extensions where the Design Guide clearly stated in Section 5.2.14 that *'original roof profiles should be retained.'*;
- The proposed alterations to the rear of the property, particularly the insertion of dormers on the roof to the rear would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the conservation area (PPS 6 Section 7.8). The choice of materials was not sympathetic to the character and style of the Inter War period property;
- Regarding the proposed sunroom to the rear of the building, UAHS did not feel that this addition if considered alone was to the detriment of the building, however, when viewed alongside the proposed dormers and small rear extensions to the rear the character of the building would undoubtedly be comprised;
- The proposal was not appropriate in the context of Malone Conservation Area and was in conflict with Article 50 (5) of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 which required that *'where any area for the time being designated as a conservation area special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing its character of appearance.'*

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Craig who outlined a range of objections to the case officer's recommendation for approval. He suggested that the conservation area should be maintained and the proposal did not fit the design criteria. He also suggested that there was the potential for the Planning Department to reconsider and change the recommendation to refusal and that a site visit would be beneficial.

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The Committee received a representation from Mr. B. Johnston in objection to the application. He suggested that the proposal was in breach of Malone Conservation Area Guidelines, the gable wall would alter the three dimensional form of the building, destroy the form and symmetry of the building and would have a detrimental affect on the neighbouring property. He suggested that there would be loss of light, loss of amenity, and that the proposal was contrary to PPS 7. He suggested that the extension was obtrusive, dominant and an encroachment of space.

During points of clarification, the case officer confirmed that an angle test had been carried out as part of the assessment of the application and Mr. Johnston confirmed that access to his property had not been requested by the Planning Department.

The Committee received representation from Mr. D. Maxwell, representing the applicant. He outlined his support for the proposal and suggested how it complied with the Malone Conservation Area Guidelines. In relation to the objector's comments, he pointed out that revised drawings had been submitted regarding the front extension, which had now been pushed back beyond the front façade so that the extension was subordinate to the main building. He suggested that the proposed materials would match the main house and that the design of the roof dormer had also been scaled down. He suggested that the design was in character with the area, subordinate to the main building, and consistent with all policies and design guides.

During points of clarification, the case officer advised that, on balance, given the size of the proposal and the existing separation distances between the properties, it was considered that the proposal would not cause unacceptable impact to the surrounding amenities. The conservation officer advised that, as there was a built form already in existence above the garage, the marginal increase proposed did not compromise the objective of the conservation area guidance.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Carson, and  
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee agrees to grant approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

On a vote by show of hands five Members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared lost.

**Further Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Hussey, and  
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the first floor front extension not complying with the Malone Conservation Area Guidelines, agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

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On a vote by show of hands six Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

(Councillor McDonough-Brown returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**LA04/2016/2205/F - Erection of two storey dwelling (revised scheme), west and to the rear of 2 Knockdarragh Park**

(Councillor McAteer had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The case officer outlined the proposal for the site which was within the development limits for Belfast and was unzoned whiteland in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Plan.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. M. Smyrl in objection to the application. He suggested that the proposal had fundamental errors and that it should be withdrawn from the agenda. He pointed out that the case officer had not visited his property and suggested that a site visit to access his property to assess the impact would be beneficial. He suggested that the variation of floor levels had not been reported and that the plot depth fell short of the recommended 80m which would create an unsatisfactory relationship with his property. He suggested that the front to back layout would be an invasion of his privacy and cause a detrimental impact on his home. He suggested that the minimum standard of separation distance between neighbouring properties had also not been met. He also suggested that the proposal was out of keeping with the character of the area and the density of the proposal would result in an increase of over 40% of to the size of the building which would be an unacceptable overdevelopment.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. C. Markwell, representing the applicant, who outlined his support to the proposal which included the history of planning approval on the site and that planning policies had remained the same since those approvals. He indicated that the applicant had amended the design after objections had been submitted, which resulted in a reduction to the height and scale from the original proposal. He suggested that the design was in character with the area, compliant with DECAN 8 and the Supplementary Planning Guidance - Creating Places. He suggested also that the orientation of the proposal would prevent overlooking into the neighbouring property and there would be no loss of light. He pointed out that the design included in-curtilage car parking provision for 3 vehicles.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

(Councillor McAteer returned to the Committee table at this point)

**LA04/2016/2196/F - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a Primary School with associated Multi-Use Games Area, car parking, landscaping and associated site works at St Patricks Primary School, 9-25 Pim Street**

(Councillors Hussey and Johnston had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The Committee considered the aforementioned application which would replace the two existing school buildings and would consolidate the facility on one site as opposed to two. It was reported that 616 pupils and 84 staff members would be accommodated within the new building.

During discussion, the case officer advised that details of an amended layout for Traffic and Parking had been submitted by the applicant and Transport NI had been consulted on 6th September 2017, however, a response remained outstanding. He pointed out that the provision of in-curtilage drop-off parking should reduce the numbers of street drop offs on Churchill Street and a total of 85 car parking spaces had been proposed, which would provide an increase of 53 parking spaces.

The Director advised that a Traffic Management Plan could not be added as a condition to the approval, however, it could be addressed as an informative on the approval should the committee so decide.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and the aforementioned informative.

(Councillor Johnston returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**LA04/2017/0986/F - Change of use from a single dwelling to house of multiple occupancy (HMO) at 10 Ardenlee Green**

(Councillor Armitage had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The case officer advised that records had indicated that this would be the first and only HMO to date in Ardenlee Green and was therefore acceptable in principle.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2017/1609/F - Change of use from a residential to a house of multiple occupancy (HMO) at 5 Cricklewood Crescent**

The case officer advised that records had indicated that this would be the first and only HMO to date in Cricklewood Crescent and was therefore acceptable in principle.

**Planning Committee,  
Tuesday, 19th September, 2017**

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

Chairperson

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