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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 Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 4th December, 2017 (Pages 1 - 10)
5. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request from a representative of County Antrim Boxing to address the Council on the Boxing Strategy and its funding in future years.

6. Official Announcements
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15th December, 2017 (Pages 11 - 42)
 - a) Amendment to Standing Order 30

In accordance with Standing Order 64, to pass, in pursuance of the Committee's decision of 15th December, a Resolution amending Standing Order 30 to read as follows: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any person or section of society, including any such expression that shows contempt in relation to their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability."

8. People and Communities Committee of 5th December, 2017 (Pages 43 - 72)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 6th and 12th December, 2017 (Pages 73 - 100)
10. Licensing Committee of 13th December, 2017 (Pages 101 - 132)
11. Planning Committee of 12th December, 2017 (Pages 133 - 144)

12. Notices of Motion

a) Sustainable Food Policy for Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Mullan,

Seconded by Alderman Spence,

“Given the number of cities which have developed a sustainable food policy, this Council agrees to develop such a policy for Belfast, looking in particular at the opportunities which such an initiative could offer, including the employability potential.”

**(To be referred, without discussion, to the
People and Communities Committee)**

b) Audio Recording of Area Working Group Meetings

Proposed by Councillor Mc Reynolds,

Seconded by Councillor O’Neill,

“This Council recognises the important role that transparency, accountability and openness play in strengthening the trust of the public in their representatives; notes the important role which the audio recording of Committee meetings since January 2016 has played in that process; acknowledges that the Area Working Groups perform a vital function in allocating sums of money to worthwhile projects across Belfast; and that they will have an additional important role with the upcoming local area plans.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to commence the recording of all Area Working Group meetings to demonstrate to the public that resources are being allocated openly, fairly and transparently.”

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

c) Transparency of Council Funding

Proposed by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

"In light of the recent recommendation from the Northern Ireland Audit Office report, this Council agrees to review the processes regarding the Local Investment Fund (LIF) and the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) to consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of the method of funding projects. The Council believes that future Council funding should follow an open process with the advertisement of funding, have strategic objectives and have measurable outcomes."

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

d) Housing Provision in Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Armitage,

Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

“This Council notes that, with the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan coming into reality, there will be a need for 66,000 new housing units by 2035. This will need an imaginative response by all, including the Council.

The Council calls upon all statutory bodies to review their land ownership and to determine if any such land is surplus and suitable for housing. Subject to legal requirements, the Council asks that consideration be given to making that land available to meet any identified housing needs and projected needs in terms of growth.

The Council is committed to a shared future and, therefore, is committed to shared housing. This shared housing should consist of community background, private and social housing.”

**(To be referred, without discussion, to the
People and Communities Committee)**

e) Bus Lanes

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,

Seconded by Councillor McVeigh,

“This Council shall submit to the Department for Infrastructure a corporate response to the Consultation on Bus Lanes within Belfast, as follows:

The Belfast Rapid Transport (BRT) lanes should not operate from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday;

Operation hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday is sufficient for the operation of the BRT lane without general traffic;


Ordinary drivers and businesses in the area will suffer badly, funerals processions will be affected and taxi drivers will find it increasingly difficult to earn a decent wage;

All taxis should be allowed into all BRT routes and all bus lanes in Belfast on a permanent basis; and

The recent twelve-week trial allowing all taxis to use the lanes in East and West Belfast and in the City centre was a success and made a noticeable improvement to traffic on these routes and should now be introduced across Belfast in all lanes permanently.”

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 4th December, 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 Browne, Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Howard.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations 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 monthly meeting of the Council of 1st November be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

Congratulations

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that the Belfast Waterfront Hall had recently attained a national award as the United Kingdom's Best Event Space for 2017 and, on

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behalf of the Council, congratulated the Managing Director and staff of the venue on their outstanding achievement.

At the request of the High Sheriff, the Lord Mayor agreed to forward, on behalf of the Council, a letter congratulating His Royal Highness, Prince Harry, and Ms. Meghan Markle on their recent engagement.

Request to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from the BBC seeking to film part of the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Request to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. Jimmy Kelly, Regional Secretary of Unite the Union, seeking approval for representatives of the Union to address the Council in advance of the motion on Bombardier, which Councillor Heading would be proposing later in the meeting.

The Council acceded to the request and Mr. R. Corbett and Ms. G Partridge were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Corbett informed the Council that he was employed as a tool maker in Bombardier's main factory and that employees in many departments, including the one in which he worked, had, in the previous week, been informed that their jobs were at risk. He explained that Bombardier employed currently over 4,500 workers, the majority of whom worked and lived in the Belfast area. The company offered high quality engineering opportunities and had gained a worldwide reputation for its work in engineering, manufacturing and aircraft assembly. It offered also graduate programmes through local universities and provided employment for many sub-contractors across Northern Ireland. He stressed that the tariffs being proposed by the United States Department of Commerce on Bombardier's C-Series aircraft were anti-competitive and that, if implemented, they would have a detrimental effect upon current and future jobs and the Northern Ireland economy.

Ms. Partridge reported that she acted as Chair of Unite the Union's Shop Stewards' Committee in Bombardier. She explained that, over the years, the company had invested significantly in developing its workforce and provided examples of various training initiatives which had been implemented. She highlighted the fact that approximately 25% of the workforce were employed currently on the C-Series project and that that figure had been due to rise to around 60% within the next five years. However, the proposed 300% tariff being proposed by the United States Department of Commerce on imports of that aircraft, which she pointed out was more than twice the tariff which Boeing had sought initially and was without justification, would, effectively, prevent its sales in the United States and make its manufacture uncompetitive. Should that lead to Bombardier reducing its operation in Northern Ireland, it would have a devastating impact upon employees and the local economy generally.

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Accordingly, she invited the Council to support Councillor Heading's motion.

Mr. Corbett and Ms. Partridge were thanked by the Lord Mayor.

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 Alderman Browne,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th November be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Announcement by the European Commission

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey and

Resolved - That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th November, under the heading "Announcement by the European Commission", be amended to provide for the addition of the following wording: "The Council calls on the EU Director-General for Education and Culture, Martine Reicherts, to review her decision to exclude the bid by Belfast City Council and Derry and Strabane District Council for European Capital of Culture 2023. The Council agrees to organise a cross-party delegation, including representatives from our partner city and from the business and voluntary sectors, to travel to Brussels to meet with the relevant EU body with a view to seeing the decision overturned."

Amendment

Cash Flow for Events – Councillor McVeigh

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th November, under the heading "Cash Flow for Events – Councillor McVeigh", be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees not to proceed with the cash flow facility.

On a recorded vote, twenty-seven Members voted for the amendment and thirty-one against and it was declared lost.

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| <u>For 27</u> | <u>Against 31</u> |
|--|---|
| The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Mullan, Newton and Reynolds. | The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O' Hara, O'Neill and Walsh. |

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th November were thereupon 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 7th and 13th October be approved and adopted.

Update on the Affordable Warmth Scheme

At the request of Councillor McCusker, the Council agreed that the Department for Communities be invited to meet at the earliest opportunity with the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and other Members of the Committee in order to discuss the resourcing of the Affordable Warmth Scheme, in light of the increasing demand for assistance under the scheme.

Congratulations

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, congratulated those officers who had contributed to the Cregagh Green attaining a Fields in Trust award and to the Lower Oldpark Community Association and the Upper Springfield Youth Programme each securing a Pride of Place award.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing additions, the minutes of the meetings of the People and Communities Committee of 7th and 13th October were approved and adopted.

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,
Seconded by Alderman Kingston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 8th and 21st November be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 9th November, 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 14th November, 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 O'Neill and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 6th November be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Belfast's Historic Environment

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

"Belfast boasts a rich historic environment that is both distinctive and irreplaceable. The continued care and conservation of these unique assets and their re-use as part of the heritage-led regeneration of Belfast will not only recognise the intrinsic value of the City's historic built environment but

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also ensure that these invaluable assets will significantly contribute to prosperity, culture, pride of place, tourist income generation and a general sense of health and wellbeing.

This Council will encourage imaginative and creative approaches to Belfast's conservation and heritage assets to ensure that they are protected, re-purposed and developed as an important driver for sustainable economic development and job creation, the provision of much needed housing, community and cultural animation and the creation of environments and public spaces that citizens and visitors alike can enjoy.

This Council will work to inform, shape and embed imaginative and creative approaches to Belfast's conservation and heritage assets in the outworking of the Belfast Agenda, the Local Development Plan, the European Capital of Culture, Belfast City Deal and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Campbell.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Not-For-Profit Energy Company

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

"This Council notes that the Scottish Government and a number of local authorities have established not-for-profit energy firms in search of new revenue, to restore faith in public services and tackle fuel poverty.

The Council notes that the first and best-known publicly owned energy companies, Robin Hood Energy in Nottingham and Bristol Energy, have given consumers, particularly those on low incomes, more choice and the option of a supplier whose only job is to secure the lowest price for consumers.

The Council agrees to explore the potential benefits of establishing a Belfast City Council owned not-for-profit energy company to tackle fuel poverty in Belfast."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Milne

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

Bombardier

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

"This Council recognises the vital significance of Bombardier Aerospace, formerly Shorts, for the Northern Ireland economy, with four thousand three

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hundred workers directly employed and a further twenty thousand employed indirectly in the supply chain or through induced economic activity. The Council express its profound concern at the threat posed to these jobs by the recent protectionist judgements by the US International Trade Commission which effectively placed a 300% surcharge on the C Series aircraft in an attempt to close the US market.

The Council expresses its full solidarity with the workforce and company at this time of trial and agrees to write directly to the Prime Minister, Theresa May MP to request that the government make it known to Boeing that if they do not withdraw their case then they will be excluding themselves from UK procurement opportunities both current and future. The Council also agrees to write to the European Trade Commissioner to request an immediate escalation through existing trade disputes mechanisms.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

On a recorded vote, fifty-six Members voted for the motion and none against and it was declared carried.

| <u>For 56</u> | <u>Against 0</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Bunting, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh. | |

Homelessness

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

“This Council notes the concerns around the lack of suitable provision for families and individuals who present as homeless, requiring temporary

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accommodation. With an increase of 32% in the number of people presenting as homeless in the past five years and a recent report that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) strategy at reducing homelessness has had limited success, the Council calls on NIHE to undertake an urgent review of the current provision. The Council also notes that we still have rough sleepers in the city and calls on all organisations, including the Council and NIHE, to meet urgently to ensure their needs are being met as the weather conditions continue to decline.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

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

Education Support

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

"This Council notes the continued Tory led cuts to the Department of Education's budget and the resulting devastating impact on the Education Authorities, schools and youth providers. Schools, youth providers, children, parents and the wider community are now at breaking point with continuing threats to services. The Council strongly opposes these cuts.

The Council also notes the work being carried out by the various Partnership Boards and schools across Belfast to improve standards of literacy and numeracy amongst our young people, particularly those living in areas of high social deprivation. The Council commends the Partnership Boards and schools for their successes to date in improving standards of literacy and numeracy, especially at GCSE level, through their various Easter schools, mid-term schools, community based classes and efforts outside of the classroom. It should be noted that the Council itself also provides educational support through homework clubs (for 5-11 years old) and parent and toddler groups.

For these reasons, this Council agrees to task Council officers to investigate ways in which it can contribute to the continued improvement and academic achievement in literacy and numeracy within local communities and will look at how it can help to overcome various barriers to learning at post primary level."

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hara.

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

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Amendment to Standing Order 30

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

"This Council agrees that 'Standing order 30: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any Member of the Council" be amended to read: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any persons or sections of society, that shows contempt on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability".

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.

Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

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

"This Council notes the increasing number of people diagnosed with HIV in Belfast year on year; is concerned at the levels of stigma experienced by people living with HIV; acknowledges the need for a new campaign to promote awareness and prevention, specifically tailored to Northern Ireland and the City of Belfast; commends the work of Belfast based, Positive Life, Northern Ireland's only dedicated charity working to support people diagnosed with HIV; and agrees to support this organisation in the development of a centre of excellence at its new headquarters."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown.

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

Progressive Taxation System

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

"This Council notes the recent revelations surrounding the 'Paradise papers', which exposed the extent to which some of the richest sections of society continue to avoid paying taxes. The Council is outraged at this practice and views it as economic injustice. Moreover, the Council is deeply concerned with plans to lower corporation tax as indicated in the Fresh Start Agreement. The Council is opposed to any future plans to lower the rate of corporation tax in the North, and instead calls for a more progressive taxation system which would better fund public services."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Milne.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

That the motion, as proposed by Councillor Collins, be amended to provide for the deletion of everything after the word “injustice” and the insertion of the following: “and calls for a more progressive taxation system that would better fund public services.”

On a recorded vote, forty-one Members voted for the amendment and five against, with four ‘no votes’, and it was declared carried.

| <u>For 41</u> | <u>Against 5</u> | <u>No Vote 4</u> |
|--|---|--|
| The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hussey, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh | Councillors Collins, Corr Johnston, Hutchinson, Kyle and Milne. | The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Alderman Rodgers; and Councillors Dudgeon and Johnston. |

The following motion, as amended, was thereupon put to the Council and passed:

“This Council notes the recent revelations surrounding the ‘Paradise papers’, which exposed the extent to which some of the richest sections of society continue to avoid paying taxes. The Council is outraged at this practice and views it as economic injustice and calls for a more progressive taxation system that would better fund public services.”

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 15th December, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor O'Hara.

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 the High Sheriff (Alderman Haire).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Reynolds declared an interest in respect of item 6c Asset Management, insofar as it referred to the development of land opposite his house and he left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.

Request to Present - Casement Park

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from representatives of the Ulster Council of the GAA in January, 2018 in relation to the Casement Park Development

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 discussions 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 (NI) 2014.

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/19

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development of the revenue estimates for 2018/19 and the key issues which Members needed to consider as part of the rates settlement process.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees that £200,000 be included with the revenue estimates to support the Boxing Strategy.

On a vote by show of hands eight members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was declared lost.

Further Proposal

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

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the amount to be included within the Capital Financing and whether or not to invest in the Boxing Strategy until its special meeting scheduled for 5th January.

On a vote by show of hands nine members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- Agreed that the paper should not be subject to call-in because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February 2018.
- Considered and agreed the following growth proposals should be included in the 2018/19 revenue estimates:
- Community Grants: £147,000 (People and Communities Committee) and £147,000 non-recurrent.
- Additional Twilight Markets: £70,000 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee) – non-recurrent.
- Robinson Centre Staff Deployment (2): £50,460 (Planning Committee)

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- European Capital of Culture £373,799 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
- Employability and Skills: £500,000 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
- City Centre Regeneration: £240,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
- City Deal: £1,000,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
- To agree in principle a £300K contingency for Peace IV capital projects

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the following until its special meeting on 5th January:

- Equality / Diversity Officer: £56,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
- Regen Support Assts. (2): £68,986 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
- Boxing Strategy: £200,000 (People and Communities Committee) and reduce the increase in the capital financing budget by £200,000 to keep any rate increase below 2%.
- Capital Financing: £1,200,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee) (If Boxing Strategy is agreed to be funded then reduce to £1,000,000)

Capital of Culture – Update

The Committee noted an updated which had been provided by the Chief Executive on the Capital of Culture bid and agreed:

- to proceed with the deputation to Brussels;
- to undertake a political deputation to seek a meeting with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Arts (DCMS);
- to investigate whether a Belfast/Derry/Strabane bid could proceed alone through a different route; and
- to continue engagement with DCMS regarding proposals for funding for the five bid cities.

Update on Recruitment

The Committee noted the contents of a report which had been submitted by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the current position on the recruitment of the seven senior posts within the Council.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion - Education Support

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th December, the following notice of motion had been proposed by former Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor O'Hara:

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"This Council notes the continued Tory led cuts to the Department of Education's budget and the resulting devastating impact on the Education Authorities, schools and youth providers. Schools, youth providers, children, parents and the wider community are now at breaking point with continuing threats to services. The Council strongly opposes these cuts.

The Council also notes the work being carried out by the various Partnership Boards and schools across Belfast to improve standards of literacy and numeracy amongst our young people, particularly those living in areas of high social deprivation. The Council commends the Partnership Boards and schools for their successes to date in improving standards of literacy and numeracy, especially at GCSE level, through their various Easter schools, mid-term schools, community based classes and efforts outside of the classroom. It should be noted that the Council itself also provides educational support through homework clubs (for 5-11 years old) and parent and toddler groups

For these reasons, this Council agrees to task Council officers to investigate ways in which it can contribute to the continued improvement and academic achievement in literacy and numeracy within local communities and will look at how it can help to overcome various barriers to learning at post primary level."

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the notice of motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor O'Hara, who had seconded the motion, addressed the Committee.

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

Notice of Motion - Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the motion to allow Councillor Nicholl, who had proposed the motion, to be in attendance.

Notice of Motion - Cuts to Health Budgets – Responses

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th September, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Kyle and passed:

"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.

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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 Committee was advised that a response to the motion had been received on 5th October from the Permanent Secretary, Richard Pengelly, in which he had pointed out that, since the motion was concerned with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust's savings plan, the Council should, in the first instance, seek a meeting with Martin Dillon, Chief Executive of the Trust.

Subsequently a letter had been forwarded to Mr Dillon seeking a meeting. Mr Dillon had responded and advised that all but one of the major savings plans and proposals were actually stood down at a meeting of the Trust Board on 13th October and, to that end, he indicated that he was unsure if a meeting with the Council was still required.

The Committee noted receipt of the responses and agreed that representatives of the Belfast Health Trust be invited to a special meeting of the Committee.

Notice of Motion - Amendment to Standing Order 30

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th December, the following notice of motion had been proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

"This Council agrees that 'Standing order 30: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any Member of the Council" be amended to read: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any persons or sections of society, that shows contempt on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability".

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that, if the Committee were minded to agree to the amendment, it was suggested that the text of Standing Order 30 should read as follows:

"A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any person or section of society, including any such expression that shows contempt in relation to their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability."

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He pointed out that Standing Order 64 – Amendments to Standing Orders and repeals required an alteration to Standing Orders to be agreed by resolution of the Council passed at one meeting and confirmed at another. Therefore, the resolution would need to be passed at the January meeting and confirmed at the following meeting in February.

With permission of the Chairperson Councillor O'Hara, who had proposed the motion, addressed the Committee and confirmed that she was content with the suggested wording.

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the proposed wording be amended by the insertion of the word 'grossly' after the word use and before the word offensive.

On a vote by show of hands seven members voted for the amendment and eleven against and it was declared lost.

The Committee accordingly agreed to the amendment of Standing Order 30 as set out.

Notice of Motion – Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme – Response from the Permanent Secretary

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 24th November, it had considered a response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, regarding the motion which had been adopted by the Council in relation to the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme.

At that meeting, the Committee had agreed that, as the response did not address the second part of the motion in relation to concern about the cut being made to the extended schools budget of 14% and a further cut of £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school, it had requested that the Committee proceed with seeking a meeting with the Permanent Secretary.

The Committee was advised that a further response had now been received from the Permanent Secretary in which he had indicated that he would be willing to meet with a deputation from the Council in January to discuss the Curriculum Sports Programme.

The Democratic Services Manager pointed out that, as Members would be aware, deputations from the Council normally consisted of one representative from each of the main six Political Parties on the Council. However, given that the motion stood in the name of Councillor Mullan it would be appropriate if she were to be included in that deputation and he recommended accordingly.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Governance

Nomination of a Person for Consideration
for Appointment as High Sheriff of Belfast for 2018

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, it had agreed to apply the D'hondt method of proportionality to identify which Parties would be entitled to nominate persons for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff over a Council Term.

The Committee decided also, as it was halfway through a Council Term, to take account of the Parties that had already held the position in 2016 (UUP) and 2017 (DUP). Therefore, the D'hondt order of Parties for the next 2 years was as follows:

1. Sinn Féin
2. Sinn Féin
3. Alliance
4. SDLP
5. DUP

The Committee was reminded also that, at its meeting on 24th November, it had established deadlines by which Parties entitled to nominate must do so or the choice would pass to the next Party on the D'hondt table.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that Sinn Fein had indicated that they did not wish to nominate a person for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff, therefore the next choice fell to the Alliance Party and it had decided to nominate Councillor Carole Howard for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff for 2018.

Noted.

Belfast Agenda

ICT Strategy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 For the Council to excel in today's digital society we must ensure information and technology are properly positioned to enable the delivery of the Council's key priorities. The Council's ICT Strategy is becoming more important as we face increasing digital opportunities and growing security threats. Our ICT strategy also has the potential to optimise, transform and improve the public services we deliver and maximise the value of our information assets.**
- 1.2 This paper requests approval for Digital Services to procure external assistance to deliver a new ICT Strategy for the**

Council, which will provide a framework for members under the remit of the Strategic Policy and Resources committee to oversee the development of the Council's ICT platforms and systems – over a period of 3 years – in alignment with the Council's key business priorities.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee approves that:

- Digital Services procure external assistance to facilitate the delivery a new ICT Strategy for the Council.
- The recent Customer Focus Outline Business Case should form a key input to the new ICT Strategy.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 In the digital age, it is vital that information and technology are positioned at the heart of business strategy, rather than as afterthoughts. Information and technology are fundamental as they underpin new business approaches and how services can be delivered and improved.
- 3.2 Technology is changing customer behaviour and expectations, so to meet the needs of our citizens we need to be able to respond quickly to opportunities and threats, by changing direction, reprioritising, and creating new capabilities more quickly and more often than we have in the past.
- 3.3 We are seeking external assistance to put in place a strategic planning process to provide clear direction for how information and technology can be used to deliver the Council's key priorities. We will be looking to engage all relevant stakeholders to help develop understanding and buy-in for the resulting strategy and to ensure its successful execution.
- 3.4 It is likely that delivering a new strategy will involve making changes to operational plans and priorities and may require the acquisition or development of new capabilities and systems.
- 3.5 It is also important to note that creating and delivering improved digital processes and services will not stop at our organisational boundary. They will require integration with other organisations to provide a seamless customer experience.

3.6 A new ICT Strategy must ensure that the right set of policies, working practices and supporting technology are put in place because information technology and the management of our information:

- is an essential element of good corporate governance,
- provides Members and Chief Officers with the right information to support
- effective decision making,
- challenges our thinking on how we deliver services and supports
- innovation in service design,
- sets direction in terms of investment in technology assuring alignment to
- corporate objectives,
- and provides the basis of accountability to Elected Members and the
- citizens of Belfast for the stewardship and use of IT resources.

Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of external assistance to develop a new ICT Strategy will be £25,000 - £30,000 and will be funded from Digital Services revenue budget.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

N/A.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers over 350 projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This paper provides an update for Members on the Physical Programme

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to –

General

- note the updates in relation to the Physical Programme as outlined in 3.1 and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any physical project

Project Update

- note that works to improve accessibility to the West Wing outdoor space (including the upgrade works to the Cenotaph) which was previously agreed by Committee in August, are due to commence on 08 January 2018 and will continue until Spring 2018. In order to facilitate construction works it will be necessary to close the West Wing entrance gate and the Cenotaph area. During this time the City Hall grounds can be accessed through the gates at Donegall Square North and Donegall Square East and signage will be in place informing members of the public etc. of the alternative access points and to update them on the project

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme covering over 350 projects under a range of funding streams including the capital programme, BIF and LIF together with the projects that it is delivering on behalf of other agencies including the Executive Office and the Department for Communities.

Recent highlights under the physical programme are outlined below:

- **LTP – Andersonstown** - the installation of new hoardings at Andersonstown outlining the key features of the new facility. Members are asked to note that design work is currently underway for hoardings for Robinson and Olympia and that these are due to be in place by the New Year. It is intended that the hoardings will be kept up to date and replaced as the projects continue to develop
- **LTP – Avoniel and Templemore** – Stage 2 consultations currently underway at a range of venues across East Belfast

- **Capital Programme – New Pavilion Sally Gardens –** Development of a new changing pavilion to complement the pitch facility. This project received match funding from DfC
- **Capital Programme – Tropical Ravine –** works have been completed and the building has been handed over to City & Neighbourhood Services. Preparations are underway for the official opening in February and Members will be kept up to date with the proposals for the opening
- **BIF - Stranmillis Gateway –** a ‘Cutting the sod’ ceremony was held to mark works starting on the new £4m works at Stranmillis which will include the development of a navigation lock, an iconic foot and cycle bridge, the refurbishment of the existing weir and high quality landscaping with associated path connections
- **Urban Villages – Lagmore Community Forum (Nov 16th) -** Official opening of this new community facility – this new £370k facility was funded by Urban Initiatives and delivered by the Council
- **LIF –** the following LIF projects were completed/officially opened – Ballysillan Youth for Christ (NLIF072 - £27,000); Brantwood and Loughside FC (NLIF061- £100,000); Colin Valley FC (WLIF2-16 - £15,000); Greencastle Orange Hall (NLIF2-09 - £35,000); Garden of Reflection Shore Road (NLIF064 - £24,000) and Annadale/Haywood Residents Association (SLIF063 - £102,959)

3.2 In addition Members are asked to note that work is continuing on a range of projects including –

- New 3G pitches and pavilions at Falls Park and Cherryvale as part of the Pitches Strategy
- Works on the new leisure facilities at Andersonstown and Robinson and Phase 2 of works at Olympia
- Environmental upgrades at Falls Park and Skegoneil
- Phase 4 of the citywide alleygating programme
- BIF projects – works at Raidio Failte and Davitts

Project Updates

3.3 **Capital Programme - City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph – Upgrade and Enhancements –** Members will recall that they agreed in August 2017 to move this project to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme. At this stage it was highlighted to Members that works were required to be completed in time for the Somme Commemoration in July 2018 and as a result this would

necessitate works starting early in the New Year. Members are advised that these works are on programme and works are due to commence on 8th January. However in order to facilitate the works it is necessary to restrict access to the West Wing space and the main entrance gate at the West Wing will be closed along with the space at the Cenotaph. During this time the City Hall grounds can be accessed through the gates at Donegall Square North and Donegall Square East. Members are asked to note that sign-posting etc. will be in place to prior to work commencing to advise members of the public etc. of the alternative access points and to update them on the project. Members are also asked to note that arrangements will be kept under review as required for any large-scale planned public events – e.g. the Spring Market

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial – Costs for all projects have been agreed by Committee and through the three stage approval process which all physical projects are required to go through
Resources – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

No implications arising.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Area Working Update (AWG) Minutes

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the East Area Working Group of 22nd November and 7th December; the West Area Working Group of 23rd November; the South Area Working Group of 27th November and the North Area Working Group of 30th November.

Local Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendation of the South Area Working Group in respect of reallocating £40,000 which had been allocated to the Ormeau boxing Club back into the LIF2 fund.

The Committee agreed the recommendations from the North Area Working Group as set out below:

| Project | LIF Allocation | Recommendations |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| NLIF073 - Jennymount Methodist Church | £64,000 | That the funding be split in to 2 phases, (Phase 1 being the delivery of heating enhancements and phase |

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| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| | | 2 the community garden/ play area.) |
| NLIF057 – Holy Cross Boxing Club | £66,000 | Agree to the LIF funding moving from the previous premises of the boxing club on Flax Street to the new premises at the former St Gemma's school. |

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendation of the South Area working Group in relation to adding the Belfast Islamic Centre project as a stage one emerging project.

Asset Management

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 seek approval from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and lease matters.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1

i) Renewal of licence agreement with GROW, Waterworks Park

The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the renewal of the Licence agreement with ‘GROW’ in relation to the provision of a community garden within Waterworks Park (shown outlined red on plan attached at Appendix 1) for a period of 2 years with an option to extend for a further three years subject to review and the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services being satisfied that the project remains sustainable**
- Approve the extension of the boundary as shown outlined red and shaded blue on the plan attached at Appendix ‘1’**

2.2

ii) Maysfield Water Inlet – Agreement with Allstate

Committee is recommended to approve entering into a Management Agreement with Allstate in respect of day-to-day maintenance of the water inlet at Maysfield, subject to terms being agreed with the Estates Manager and the City Solicitor and also to give approval for Allstate to provide enabling

infrastructure to accommodate a water aerator/feature within the water inlet at a future date.

2.3

iii) Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre: Proposed Possession

Following a decision of the People & Communities Committee of 10 October 2017, Committee is recommended to agree to terminate the Agreement for Lease in respect of Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre to take possession of the property (subject to the funder confirming that it does not wish to exercise step in rights).

2.4

iv) Land at Glenbryn - Playground and Open Space

Committee is asked to agree to the acquisition of 1.28 acres of land from DfC to transform an area of wasteland between Glenbryn Park and Alliance Road into a pocket park to include a playground, path network and an attractive green space for community use. Approval is also sought to BCC entering into a Licence Agreement with Groundwork NI for the continued use of part of the site as a community garden.

2.5

v) Land at Cregagh Park: Marketing update

Committee is asked to note that following a decision by the SP&R Committee in August 2017, land at Cregagh Park has subsequently been placed on the open market for sale. They are also asked to note that due to the open space and planning issues to be addressed, it is proposed to set a closing date for bids in early January to allow interested bidders time to undertake the necessary due diligence to ensure that offers are robust in planning and financial terms.

3.0 Main report

3.1

i) Renewal of licence agreement with GROW, Waterworks Park

3.2 Key Issues

At meetings on the 8th Nov 2016 and 7th Feb 2017 the People and Communities Committee approved the renewal of a licence agreement with 'GROW' for a period of two years; the extension of area licenced to GROW to include the area outlined red and shaded blue on the plan attached at Appendix '1' and to confer delegated authority to the Director of City and

Neighbourhood Services to extend the agreement for up to 3 years subject to the Director's satisfaction that the project remains sustainable.

3.3 The Council has permitted GROW to use land at Waterworks Park to provide a community garden; this arrangement has been in place since 2010 and the Group have been successful in attracting third party funding. The two year extension to the licence will secure current funding from the Rank Foundation.

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional financial implications at this time.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.

3.6

ii) Maysfield Water Inlet – Agreement with Allstate

3.7 Key Issues

At its meeting on 12th December 2014 the Committee approved the award of preferred developer status, on foot of a Development Brief process, to Allstate for development of their new headquarters building at Maysfield; this development will provide an office building of approximately 165,000 sq ft providing accommodation for over 1,500 staff. Allstate also entered into a further agreement with Council in respect of additional social and economic benefits to be delivered in local area.

3.8 Allstate's development proposals required a new quay wall to be constructed to the Council's water inlet at the rear of the former leisure centre (Appendix 2 – location map). In the course of undertaking works to the inlet it became apparent that a large volume of contaminated silt would have to be removed off-site.

3.9 Following consideration at two further meetings (23rd September and 21st October 2016) Members decided not to accede to requests from Allstate to contribute towards the hitherto unseen cost of this remediation work.

3.10 Members were made aware at its meeting of 23rd September 2016 of the potential to seek future commitments from Allstate in relation to maintaining the water surface of the inlet to keep it free from accumulation of debris.

3.11 It is therefore now proposed to enter into a Management Agreement with Allstate, in respect of the water inlet that remains in Council ownership. This will document the extent of roles and responsibilities associated with an ongoing maintenance obligation following grant of the ground lease for their new office premises, primarily in respect of Allstate performing day-to-day maintenance duties to keep the water surface clear of accumulating debris.

3.12 Allstate anticipate completion of construction of the new office building in early part of 2018 when the water inlet will be refilled with water once again. Allstate have now sought permission, and in order to prevent the growth of algae in the water inlet, that as part of their current construction works that a power supply is provided to the water inlet that would facilitate future installation of a water aerator/feature. Such an installation would require a specific legal agreement and a further report would be brought back to this Committee in this regard.

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications to the Council in respect of this proposal.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None

3.15

iii) Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Proposed Possession

3.16 Key Issues

Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre has become vacant and the former occupier Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre Limited (UAYC) has dissolved. The Council owns the land upon which this building is located and had previously entered into an Agreement for Lease with UAYC although the lease was never executed. At its meeting on 10 October 2017 the People and Communities Committee agreed to terminate the Agreement for Lease and take possession of the property, subject to approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. They also agreed to bring the property into operational use of the Council subject to an assessment of need and condition, with consideration of the purpose/use to be further considered by the North Area Working Group, in the context of wider area needs, taking into account other known facility needs such as Hillview Boxing Club. A further report is to be brought back to the People and Communities Committee in

terms of future use proposals as well as an update on the condition of the building.

3.17 Finance and Resource Implications

As advised to the People & Communities Committee, revenue and resource costs in terms of staff resource and ongoing property costs will need to be reviewed in the context of future use proposals and condition of the building.

3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report

3.19

iv) Land at Glenbryn-Playground and Open Space

Land at Glenbryn Park (as shown in the plan attached at Appendix 4) is presently held for development by the Department for Communities, although it had been due to transfer to the Council along with the Jolly Rodger Centre on 1st April 2016 as part of the proposed transfer of regeneration powers. Discussions have continued with DfC and agreement has now been reached to transfer the land for the development of a pocket park to include a playground, path network and an attractive green space for community space. This agreement for transfer to the Council is on the basis of nil consideration.

The site also includes a small community garden currently held by way of a Licence between DfC and Groundwork NI. In advance of transfer of the site DfC would terminate their Licence with Groundwork NI and BCC would enter into a new Licence with Groundwork NI should Members agree. DfC have confirmed that they would have no objections to allowing access to the community garden through the Jolly Rodger Complex which would keep it separate from the pocket park facility.

3.20 This is an emerging project on the council's Capital Programme at Stage 1, as approved by the SP&R Committee in October 2015. Urban Villages are also considering the project for funding and are preparing a business case and programme.

3.21 Planning approval was granted for the pocket park at the Planning Committee on 16th May 2017. Subject to funding, the capital build for the project would take place in the 2018/19 financial year. Belfast City Council would act as the delivery agent for the project as per other Urban Villages projects.

3.22 Financial and Resource Implications

The land is to transfer from DfC to BCC at nil consideration in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 (5) (ii) of the Stormont Regulations and Government Property Act (Northern Ireland) 1933.

3.23 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications from the land transfer. Statutory consultation was undertaken as part of the planning process. Further community engagement is likely to be undertaken by Urban Villages.

3.24

v) Land at Cregagh Park: Marketing update

3.25 Key Issues

At its meeting in August 2017 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to declare land at Cregagh Park surplus to requirements and to place it on the open market for sale, with any such sale being subject to obtaining planning permission.

3.26 Marketing agents were subsequently appointed and planning advice sought. The site has been marketed over the past number of weeks with a good level of market interest although the issue of development potential in the context of planning policy remains the key issue to be addressed.

3.27 Members will recall from the August Committee report that the site is currently open space and as such is subject to open space policy OS1 in Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) to safeguard its protection. Planning advice indicates that exceptions to this can be made if it is clearly shown that redevelopment will bring substantial community benefits which outweigh the loss or where an alternative suitable provision is made. This advice also indicates that a case may be made for the improvement of an existing local open space, if it satisfactorily replaces the open space lost and has community support. An independent planning report notes that there may be potential for four to six dwellings to be developed subject to addressing open space issues.

3.28 Given the recent buoyancy in the housing market most interest in the site is coming from private residential developers. Unlike uses which can be considered to be community benefit, private residential developers would be required to look at offsetting the open space loss elsewhere.

This offset provision would increase their overall development costs. These costs have to be taken into account by the developer in their development appraisal to determine how much they could pay for the subject site to ensure that their overall proposal is financially viable. They therefore require sufficient time to work up proposals to address the planning issues and calculate costs so that offers made for the sale site are as robust as possible to reduce the risk of an offer being withdrawn at a later stage either through an unsuccessful planning application or by becoming financially unviable if the purchaser had underestimated the cost of offset works.

3.29 The onus would be on the developer to address the open space issue. Given the challenges of a developer finding an alternative site in close proximity for bringing into open space use, the Council as a local landowner of other open space in the local area could potentially benefit as there may be opportunities for the developer to seek to improve an alternative Council owned site, if demonstrated that it would satisfactorily replace the open space loss at Cregagh Park. However, it will be up to bidders to bring forward their proposals in relation to this.

3.30 Given the planning issues and the need for bidders, as part of their bid submission, to address the open space issue, on the advice of the marketing agent it is proposed to set a closing date for bids in early January. This should allow interested bidders time to undertake due diligence given the complexities regarding the open space issues.

3.31 Financial and Resource Implications

The Council would receive a capital receipt if planning is obtained and the land is sold.

3.32 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

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- (1) Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system; and
- (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 as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2.

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

| Title of tender | Senior Responsible Officer | Proposed contract duration |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Expert technical advice to support the execution of the ICT Programme of work | Ronan Cregan | 1 year |

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

| Title of tender | Senior Responsible Officer | Proposed contract duration |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Supply and Erection of Street Nameplates | Keith Sutherland | Extend to 31 March 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise. |
| Maintenance and Repair of Grounds Maintenance Equipment | Nigel Grimshaw | Extend to 31 March 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise. |
| Digitisation and micro-filming of historical records | Keith Sutherland | Extend to 31 March 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise. |
| Removal, storage and retrieval of office records | John Walsh | Extend to 31 March 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise. |

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| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Supply and Delivery of Plastic Sacks | Gerry Millar | Extend to 31 March 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 11th December and specifically the following:

- To authorise the continuation of the St Patrick's Day Small Grants Scheme in its current format, given that this had been the preferred option of those who had participated in the survey and consultation event; and
- To note that a contribution of up to £3,000 had been provided through the District Council Good Relations Programme to support up to six local interface groups to deliver the annual Christmas Events.

**Equality and Diversity: Screening
Outcome Report Jan-Sep 2017**

The Committee was reminded that one of the main requirements of the Council's equality scheme was to carry out the screening of new and revised policies. That allowed any impacts related to equality of opportunity and/or good relations to be identified and addressed.

The City Solicitor reported that guidance from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland defined a policy "as all the ways in which an authority carries out or proposes to carry out its functions relating to Northern Ireland." As such policies were written, formal or informal.

He reported also that the Departmental Management Teams were responsible for identifying policies for screening. An equality screening template was then completed by the relevant officer, in collaboration with the Equality and Diversity Officer. On a regular basis, the Equality and Diversity Officer collated all completed templates into a Screening Outcome report and published onto the Council's website along with the relevant completed screening templates.

The Committee noted the Screening Outcome Report for January – September 2017.

Operational Issues

Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 7th December.

Minutes of Meeting of Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Audit and Risk Panel is constituted as a working group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The purpose of the Panel is to provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council’s risk management framework and associated control environment. The Panel also oversees the Council’s financial reporting process.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary to Committee of the key issues that have been considered and discussed by the Panel at its December 2017 meeting and to present minutes of the last meeting of the Panel for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

- notes the summary of the issues discussed / assurance received at the Panel meeting of 8 December 2017 as set out at Section 3 below and;
- approves the minutes of the Audit & Risk Panel meeting of 8 December 2017.

3.0 Main report

3.1 NIAO – Completion of audit of 2016/17 financial statements

3.1.1 At its meeting on 8 December 2017 the Panel considered received final copies of the NIAO’s reports to those Charged with Governance and Annual Audit Letter for 2016/17 audit. There were no priority 1 recommendations and the audit resulted in an unqualified (‘clean’) opinion on the Council’s financial statements and related arrangements. A recent NIAO ‘good practice’ report on Bribery and Corruption was also considered by the Panel.

3.2 Management reports – Procurement, Absence and Health and Safety

3.2.1 Regarding Procurement, the Panel was apprised of the risks relating to procurement, the action being taken to address backlogs in tender processing and, moreover, to review the Council’s procurement arrangements going forward.

3.2.2 Regarding absence, the HR Manager reported on performance at the end of quarter 2 and provided a detailed analysis of the figures, in particular in relation to personal and work related stress. The Audit and Risk Panel agreed that it would write to Directors to emphasise the importance they attach to absence management and also to stress the ongoing need to ensure compliance with the process.

3.2.3 Regarding health and safety the Corporate H&S Manager provided an update on activity in quarter 2. This showed a small number of high priority actions from the Corporate H&S team's reviews still open and the Manager explained these issues were being followed up.

3.3 External review of Audit, Governance and Risk Services

3.3.1 The Council's internal audit service, AGRS, had been externally audited against professional standards. This is a mandatory process. The review had a positive outcome with assurance provided on the Service's conformance with standards.

3.4 Risk Management

3.4.1 The Panel received an update on risk management, in particular the management of corporate risks. The report highlighted the risk profile of the Council (which was significant), the action being taken to review and manage the risks. It highlighted the 'three lines of defence' model that can be used to aid management and assurance on key risks, comprising management controls, oversight and audit, and the need to develop this model further to address key corporate risks successfully. An independent review of the Council's risk management process had also been completed and the results of this were reported to the Panel. Overall the report noted the progress made to improve the process in recent years, but did identify a number of actions for improvement.

3.5 AGRS Reports

3.5.1 The Head of AGRS reported on the completion of a number of audits including payroll, outdoor leisure, corporate complaints and treasury management. He also reported on consultancy work undertaken by AGRS on city centre investment (Grade 'A' offices) and the Belfast Investment Fund. He advised the Panel of ongoing and planned audit work for the next quarter, including reviews of corporate risk areas, including procurement.

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3.5.2 AGRS also reported on the implementation of agreed audit recommendations, with the exercise showing a 25% reduction in open actions, albeit AGRS indicated that there are a number of actions still requiring implementation.

3.6 Audit and Risk Panel / Member Training

3.6.1 Finally, training for Panel members has been arranged had been delivered in October and the Panel agreed the actions arising from the training including an additional Panel meeting in 2018 to allow further time to discuss risk management and, related to this, plans to incorporate risk / governance training into the Member Development programme for 2018/19.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

None.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Requests for 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 and the provision of hospitality as set out below:

| NAME OF ORGANIZATION | FUNCTION DATE | FUNCTION DESCRIPTION | CRITERIA MET | ROOM CHARGE | HOSPITALITY OFFERED | CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 2018 EVENTS | | | | | | |
| GEMS NI | 19th January 2018 | Employment East Celebration of Achievement – award ceremony with speeches and reception Numbers attending - 100 | C & D | No (Charity) | Yes - Wine Reception | Approve No charge Wine Reception |
| Cara-Friend | 16th February 2018 | Outing the Past – Festival of LGBT History 2 day event with launch at City Hall officially opened by the Lord Mayor. Numbers attending - 120 | C & D | No (Charity) | Yes - Wine Reception | Approve No charge Wine Reception |

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| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Volunteer Now | 16th March 2018 | Recognising 'Sainly' Volunteers – Awards ceremony to celebrate those who volunteer across Northern Ireland. Numbers attending - 400 | C | No (Charity) | Yes – Tea and coffee reception | Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception |
| British Institute of Cleaning Science | 7th September 2018 | NI Cleaning Operative of the Year Awards – Awards Ceremony recognising excellence across the industry. Numbers attending - 100 | C | Yes Charge £115 | No - as commercial | Approve Charge £115 No Hospitality |
| European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) | 11th September 2019 | European Group for Public Administration Welcome Reception – Major European Conference being hosted by Queens University, Belfast. Numbers attending – 500. | A & B | Yes Charge £300 | Yes - Wine Reception | Approve Charge £300 Wine Reception |

Grenfell Tower Fire – Update on Actions of Belfast City Council

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Arising from the Notice of Motion; ‘Cladding on flats and high rise buildings’ which was considered at the SP&R meeting of 18 August this report is to inform Members of the actions that have been undertaken in the wake of the tragedy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1** It has been nearly six months since the fire at Grenfell tower where many residents lost their lives. The inquiry into the fire has now opened, with its chairman promising it will provide answers to how the disaster could have happened in the 21st century.
- 3.2** The fire started in a Hotpoint fridge freezer on the fourth floor and spread to the external cladding system. The London fire brigade were faced with an unprecedented level of rapid fire spread through the tower with 40 fire engines and more than 200 firefighters tackling the blaze.
- 3.3** The fire affected most of the floors of the building and destroyed 151 homes, both in the tower and surrounding areas. It has recently been confirmed that 71 lives have been lost as a result of the fire.
- 3.4** The cladding system installed at Grenfell is the main focus in relation to the rapid fire spread over the envelope of the building. The external cladding panel was a polyethylene (PE) filled aluminum panel (ACM). The insulation installed on the tower as part of the cladding system was a polyisocyanurate (PIR) insulation material.
- 3.5** On 6 July an Independent Expert Advisory Panel recommended a series of large scale fire tests to establish the performance of a range of ACM panels in conjunction with a range of insulation materials in order to help building owners make decisions on any further measures that may need to be put in place.
- 3.6** The testing was carried out by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and involved large scale fire tests to BS 8414 which is currently one of the methods of determining compliance with national Building Regulations across the UK.
- 3.7** The type of ACM and insulation material employed on Grenfell was tested and failed to meet the performance criteria contained in BRE135 - Fire Performance of External Thermal Insulation for Walls of Multi-Storey Buildings.
- 3.8** The Building Regulations guidance in England, which is similar to that in Northern Ireland, has been called into question and is certainly unclear with regard to ACM panels. Many industry experts hold the view that the guidance as it

stands does not prevent the use of PE filled ACM's and that this must be reviewed.

- 3.9 On 28th July 2017 the Department for Communities and Local Government announced an independent review of building regulations and fire safety in England. This independent review will be led by Dame Judith Hackitt, Chair of EEF, the Manufacturers' Organisation, and will look at current Building Regulations and fire safety with a particular focus on high rise residential buildings.
- 3.10 The outcome, including any subsequent change to both regulations and guidance in England, will greatly influence any change to the Building Regulations in Northern Ireland which has closely followed the requirements in England since implementation.

Actions of Belfast City Council in relation to NIHE high rise residential blocks

- 3.11 Since the fire at Grenfell tower the Building Control Service have been providing advice to the NIHE in relation to the external cladding systems employed on 4 of their 32 high rise residential blocks in N. Ireland.
- 3.12 Specifically we have carried out site inspections of the 4 blocks, all of which are in Belfast. Two of these blocks, Eithne House and Cuchulain House in the New Lodge are in the North of the city and two are in the East, Carnet House, Upper Newtownards Road and Whincroft House in the Braniel estate.
- 3.13 These inspections involved removing cladding panels to check the materials and products used and also checking fire separation measures around windows and at compartment floors and walls.
- 3.14 We have also reviewed the suitability of the two different cladding systems used on these blocks, both of which have undergone large scale fire testing to BS8414, and both were found to be in compliance with Building Regulations.
- 3.15 It should be emphasised that none of the Housing Executive tower blocks have Aluminium Composite Material, rainscreen cladding similar to that used in Grenfell tower block.
- 3.16 The Service have also provided advice on other aspects of fire safety in the 4 high rise blocks including methods of staircase and landing lobby smoke ventilation.

- 3.17 One of our Assistant Building Control Managers, Alan Mayrs, has been nominated onto an independent review group set up by the NIHE and chaired by Professor Alastair Adair of Ulster University. The group will assess all aspects of fire safety in relation to NIHE properties but has a central focus on high rise properties. There have been 6 meetings of the group and its findings are contained in a report which was taken to the NIHE Board on 29th November 2017.
- 3.18 It is important to note that once a building has been completed for the purposes of Building Regulations the Council has no power of continuing control as to how that building is maintained or operated. Nor is it the case that we can retrospectively apply the Regulations to existing buildings although improvements to fire safety may be enforced by other legislation such as the Fire Services Order if appropriate.

Evacuation procedures from high rise residential blocks

- 3.19 Queries have been raised about the concept of the Building Regulations design guidance which advocates a 'stay put' strategy in the event of fire in a high rise apartment block.
- 3.20 This is a concept that only the flat on fire needs to evacuate and that all residents in all the other flats will be safe to remain in their flat unless evacuation beyond the flat of origin becomes necessary due to a growing fire. Any such evacuation would be a controlled evacuation with the Fire Brigade removing those at greatest risk first.
- 3.21 The reason that this concept is considered safe is that each flat is designed and constructed as a self-contained fire compartment with each flat separated from the other flats adjacent, above and below by walls and floors which are of fire resisting construction. The amount of fire resistance required is specified in periods of time and can range from 30 minutes to 120 minutes depending on the size of the development.
- 3.22 The flats are also separated from the common corridor or lobby area by fire resisting walls and smoke ventilation may also be required to corridors or lobbies leading to the stairs depending on factors such as travel distance, number of stairs and height of the building.
- 3.23 The staircase enclosures will also be of fire resisting construction and will be required to have smoke ventilation installed.

- 3.24 Nationally the design of residential blocks of flats under Building Regulations and the associated British Standards are based on this 'stay put' concept. To move away from this would mean a complete shift by Government from established fire safety design principles.
- 3.25 However following a fire in Kensington and Chelsea and in Lakanal House in Southwark in 2009 it is clear this can sometimes go wrong. We won't have any recommendations from the investigation into Grenfell for some time but there seems a strong link to the work carried out to provide an external thermally insulated over cladding system to the building. We know from the investigations at Lakanal house that the serious fire spread that occurred was strongly influenced by building works carried out to the building over many years that compromised the original fire safety features of Lakanal House. While these works were not the sole reason the fire got so out of control they were a very relevant factor.

Local experience of fire in high rise accommodation

- 3.26 Members will be aware that a fire recently broke out in NIHE high rise accommodation at Coolmoyne House in Dunmurry. Thankfully, no-one was seriously injured and everyone was successfully evacuated from the building but there was some concern from residents that there had been no general fire alarm sounded.
- 3.27 However, the NIFRS confirmed that the fire alarm system had worked as intended in that the alarm in the flat where the fire occurred operated and automatic smoke vents linked to the detection system in the common areas also successfully operated in the communal hallway.
- 3.28 Each flat has self-contained smoke alarms, the flat in question had three smoke detectors and they worked, and other residents' alarms should not go off unless they detected smoke. It is not the case that there would be sounders in the common hallway as these are not necessary (nor advisable) for flats built in accordance with the codes.
- 3.29 In relation to evacuation procedures the NIFRS have issued fire safety advice for residents of high rise accommodation which can be accessed online at: -
<https://www.nifrs.org/fire-safety-advice-residents-high-rise-accommodation/>
- 3.30 In addition the NIHE have also issued advice for housing executive tenants which can be accessed online at:-
[https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/advice/advice for housing](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/advice/advice_for_housing)

[executive tenants/advice/safety/fire safety/highrise building s.htm](#)

Other actions of Belfast City Council

- 3.31 The Service have carried out a review of the building regulations requirements and guidance across the UK in relation to external fire spread over the surface of a building to inform the NIHE independent review group and to establish how our own legislation in NI compares with legislation in GB.
- 3.32 The Building Standards Branch (BSB) of the Department of Finance is responsible for the Building Regulations (NI) Order 1979 and for updating all fire safety requirements and guidance issued under the Regulations (Part E: Fire Safety). Since the fire we have, along with Building Control colleagues in the rest of N.Ireland, been working with BSB to review the methods of compliance and standards incorporated into fire safety guidance relevant to external fire spread and also on the issue of automatic fire suppression.
- 3.33 Based on these discussions an informative was issued by BSB in relation to the use of BRE 135 and large scale fire testing as a method of Building Regulations compliance in N. Ireland.
- 3.34 Within Building Control all our surveyors have been fully updated on the requirements and guidance in relation to external fire spread contained in Building Regulations and we have asked them all to review records over the last 2 years to ensure there are no issues in relation to external cladding assemblies in high rise buildings. To date we have not identified any buildings where the cladding has been cause for concern.
- 3.35 In response to a letter to the Chief Executive from the Head of the NI Civil Service requiring all public authorities to check for ACM type cladding systems (see table below for relevant premises) our colleagues in Property & Projects have reviewed all relevant Council buildings and found we have no buildings that fall within the parameters outlined.

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| Trigger heights for investigation of ACM Cladding Systems | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Building Use | Overnight accommodation | Trigger Height/storey* | Test? |
| Schools | Yes | Any height | Yes |
| | No | 18 metres or more | Yes |
| Health care facilities (including Hospitals) | Yes | 2 storeys or more | Yes |
| | No | 18 metres or more | Yes |
| All other buildings | Yes | 18 metres or more | Yes |

** Height is measured from ground level at its lowest point to the upper surface of the top storey (excluding plant rooms)*

3.36 This letter was also sent to Departmental Permanent Secretaries and responses sought from them in relation health care and school buildings. Those buildings where any testing or follow up action is required will be the responsibility of the relevant government Department to address.”

The Committee noted the report and agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Finance, Building Standards Branch, seeking an update on the process of recruitment of the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee and the outcome of their review of Technical Booklet E (Fire Safety). The letter should also indicate that the Department should be more proactive in reviewing the Building Regulations rather than awaiting the outcome of the review in England. It was agreed also that officers should engage with the NI Fire and Rescue Service with a view to them appearing before Committee to discuss their capacity to enforce the Fire Services Order.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 5th December, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Aldermen Rodgers and McKee; and
Councillors Armitage, Beattie, Corr, Corr Johnston, Garrett,
Heading, Lyons, Magennis, Milne, McCusker, McReynolds,
Newton and Nic Biorna.

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

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th November and the special meeting of 13th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Request to Present - World Health Organisation Europe

The Committee agreed that Ms. Kosinska, Focal Point in the World Health Organisation Europe for Healthy Cities, would present at the January meeting.

Presentations

County Antrim Boxing/Funding for Boxing

The Committee was reminded that it had agreed to receive a presentation from representatives of County Antrim Boxing.

Accordingly, Mr. M. Scott, Mr. G Storey MBE, representing County Antrim Boxing, and Mrs. C. McAuley, Ulster Operations Manager, representing the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA), were welcomed to the meeting.

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Mr. Scott provided the Members with an overview of the Boxing Strategy 2012-2022 and detailed the many past accomplishments and successes that had been achieved through the strategy. The representative advised that Boxing was now regarded by many as one of Belfast's most successful sports.

Mr. Storey provided the Committee with his views on the success of the boxing strategy and the need to support it going forward.

The Committee was then provided with an overview of the funding for the strategy and the representatives asked the Council to consider meeting the following funding requests

- further investment of £49k from Belfast City Council to sustain a boxing programme within Belfast until the end of the financial year 2018/19; and
- that the Council reinstate funding, resources and employees back to the previous £200k per year in order to continue with the strategy.

The representatives then addressed a number of questions, during which, a number of Members voiced their support for the boxing strategy and welcomed the achievements made in the sport since its introduction.

At this stage in the proceedings officers then referred the Members to the details contained within the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Council developed a 10-year Boxing Strategy for Belfast in 2013. The strategy was devised in partnership with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA), the Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), the County Antrim Boxing Board and Sport NI (SNI).**
- 1.2 The boxing strategy was initially funded for 3 years with a total budget of £600,000. The timing of the delivery of the Strategy resulted in the funding which was due to end in March 2016 extending into a 4th year with the programme ending on the 31st March 2017.**
- 1.3 Funding was requested at the People and Communities Committee in March 2017 and they awarded £24k support for support funding. A further request for recurrent funding was considered at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June 2017 in relation to funding of £101,000 each year for the next 3-4 years. The decision was to award £45k in 2017/18 only.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the request from the Board for in year funding of £49k

3.0 Main report

3.1 A request has been accepted for the County Antrim Board to present to People and Communities Committee this month. Subsequent to this request Officers have received a report from the Board requesting further investment of £49k from Belfast City Council to sustain a boxing programme within Belfast. See Appendices 1 and 2.

3.2 The agreed non-recurring financial support for the implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy ended on 31st March 2017 and no further recurring provision has been made for 2018/19. Boxing clubs and the governing body are able to access the support that is available to all sporting clubs through the Leisure Development Unit.

3.3 Financial Implications

The request for in year funding of £49k can be provided from within departmental underspends. However, any recurrent funding for subsequent years would have to be considered as part of the rate setting process and there is no recurrent funding provided for in 2018/19 departmental budgets.

3.4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council process.”

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:

- in year funding of £49,000 would be awarded to the County Antrim Board which had been identified from within departmental underspends; and
- the committee agreed ‘in principle’ to support future funding to support the remainder of the Boxing Strategy and deferred consideration to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to enable it to be considered as part of the rate setting process.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives and they left the meeting.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the following report 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 this item as, due to the nature of the item, 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.

Community Development Grants Programme 2018/19

The Committee considered a report which provided an update in respect of the budget for the Community Development Grants Programme for 2018/19 and the key issues that the Members needed to consider.

The Committee:

- agreed to offer contract extensions for 2018/19 and to permit officers to engage with funded organisations on that basis; and
- noted that any offer of funding would be fully dependent upon formal confirmation of the Council's contribution and receipt of Department of Community (DfC) allocation towards the Community Development Grants Programme.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Waste Collection Update

The Director provided the Committee with an update regarding the waste collection service which included a detailed update in respect of the following key areas:

- customer call handling and management interventions; and
- the waste collection improvement plan.

The Committee noted the Waste Collection update and that the next update would be submitted to the April meeting.

Department for Communities Letter of Variance for Council Community Support Programme 2017/18

The Committee was reminded that, in preparation for the introduction and roll-out of Welfare Reform, the Department for Communities (DfC) had supported front-line advice organisations via grant-aid and capacity development.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Service advised that the Council currently administered an annual grant programme of £931,765.00 with levered income via the

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DfC's Community Support Programme to five Advice Consortia covering east, north, west and central Belfast for generalist advice services.

In addition to this annual grant, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 17th February, had agreed to the allocation of £100k to the Belfast Advice Group towards the provision of a city-wide tribunal service for 2017/18. To date, the Council had been the sole provider of grant-aid support for the tribunal service. The £100k allocation was just under half of the projected total costs to provide the service in 2017/18.

The Director reported that the Belfast Advice Group had indicated that the funding was due to run out in December and that they would no longer be in a position to provide the service if additional funding was not found. At its meeting in November, the Belfast Advice Group had endorsed a proposal that should funding become available via in-year allocation the priority for this investment would be the provision of the tribunal service. He advised that the cost for the provision of the tribunal service for the period December 2017 to March 2018 was estimated at £59,900.00.

The Committee noted that the in-year allocation as per the Council's Letter of variance was £61,103.00.

The Committee:

- accepted the additional in-year grant as outlined in the Letter of Variance; and
- agreed the allocation of the in-year grant of £61,103 to the request made by the Belfast Advice Group, endorsed by the five Advice Consortia members, for the provision of the City Wide Tribunal Service to the end of March 2018.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Tropical Ravine Update

The Members were reminded that the Tropical Ravine in Belfast Botanic Gardens had received Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) of £2.3m. A jointly funded project between the HLF and Belfast City Council had been carried out to the Ravine to safeguard the future of the Tropical Ravine and its significant plants collection.

The Assistant Director advised that construction works had now been completed and interpretation/re-planting works had commenced. She stated that it was anticipated that visitors to the Tropical Ravine would increase and that the facility would have a significantly higher profile than it did previously. It was therefore felt that the previous regime of casual opening and closing would no longer be appropriate and it was suggested that the facility should open daily from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. The Committee noted that these opening times could be reviewed subject to demand.

The Committee was advised that an Activity Officer had been appointed prior to the reopening, this officer would undertake programme planning and preparation and recruit and train volunteers. The Committee also noted that a position of Botanic (Bot) Crew had been developed, this position would be responsible for the opening and closing,

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cleaning and day to day operation of the facility. The resource would be supplemented with volunteers who would support events and activities and provide information on the conservation and educational elements of the Tropical Ravine. The volunteer resource would be engaged through Belfast City Council's volunteer scheme and would be central to the HLF scheme that allowed for training and support for volunteers.

The Assistant Director advised that part of the programme of use for the facility included the hire of the venue for events and hospitality. She explained that it was anticipated that this would generate additional income for the facility and repeat visits to the Tropical Ravine.

A number of the Members welcomed the reopening of the facility and also praised the work of the Friends of Botanic Group and staff at the facility. It was noted that the Friends of Botanic Group provided support to the Council and undertook to source grant funding that would not be available to the Council.

The Committee:

- noted the provisional date of 9th February, 2018 for the reopening of the venue (to be confirmed with the Heritage Lottery Fund);
- noted the arrangements to operationalize the building; and
- agreed that a site visit should be arranged to the Tropical Ravine in advance of the official reopening and requested that staff at the facility and Friends of Botanic Group be invited to attend.

Playground Maintenance and Inspections

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 update Members on the improvements made in the inspection/maintenance and management of playgrounds and how the Council is striving to make all playgrounds as inclusive and accessible as reasonably practicable.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **consider the update set out in the report and to note the positive collaborative work between C&NS and Legal Services to address risks associated with a growing culture of litigation related to our parks.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Council's playground portfolio has increased significantly over the past number of years to 99 playgrounds and this has occurred primarily as the result of Local Government Reform in 2015 when the Council took on the ownership and maintenance of an additional 15 playgrounds from Lisburn and Castlereagh Council. In addition to this, other new playgrounds have been added to our playground portfolio as part of environmental improvement projects such as the Connswater Community Greenway scheme.

Playground Inspections

- 3.2 City and Neighbourhood Services has been reviewing the way in which the Council's playgrounds are inspected. Previously the Council recorded playground checks by way of a paper inspection sheet for each individual playground, each day of the year however this method of recording playground inspections proved to be very labour intensive, but yet the Council is legally obligated to archive this information for up to 21 years from the inspection dates.
- 3.3 Our Department has since introduced a digital system for playground inspections which has been operating for the last two years. The new hand held digital system allows Playground Inspectors to undertake checks on every individual piece of playground apparatus along with the ability to attach multiple photographs. This new paperless inspection system has proven to be very successful and has removed the cumbersome task of archiving paper inspection sheets. In addition to this, the new digital inspection system allows our Playground Inspectors to electronically send Priority one repair requests directly to Facilities Management along with photographs of the defective equipment. This new method on inspecting playgrounds and generating instant repair requests has greatly increased the turnaround time for the more urgent repairs.
- 3.4 In addition to our own in-house playground inspections, our Department employs an independent Playground Inspector to inspect all our playgrounds on an annual basis, ensuring that all our playgrounds comply with the European safety standards BS EN 1176 & 1177. The independent inspection reports are also used to identify and award an overall '*Quality Score*' for each individual playground which assists when deciding where we recommend allocating the annual capital budget for the following year's playground refurbishment programme.

Playground Repairs

- 3.5 Our Playground Inspectors have been equipped to undertake their own small scale minor repairs and maintenance operations which has reduced the amount of work requests going to our colleagues in Facilities Management and helps maintain the quality of service. Monthly meetings continue to be held between C&NS and Facilities Management which allow us to review and monitor on-going/outstanding repairs.

Playground signage/Frequency of Inspections & Accessibility

- 3.6 We have recently reviewed the playground inspection programme. To inform this, over a period of time we reviewed playground usage and repairs and developed a risk profile for each playground. We undertook a benchmarking exercise with Birmingham City Council, as they had devised a specific risk assessment criteria for playgrounds which looked at the size of the Park and where the playground was situated as well as any history of previous vandalism etc. (See Appendix 1 – risk assessment used by Birmingham City Council to categorise frequency of playground inspections). We undertook a similar exercise in collaboration with our Park Managers and Playground Inspectors using the Birmingham City Council’s model and established our own recommended frequency of playground inspections (See Appendix 2 – BCC proposed frequency of playground inspections).
- 3.7 As part of this process Legal Services carried out a vital challenge role and endorsed the approach as one which would help defend future public liability cases. Legal Services also asked us as part of our ongoing review to look at *playground signage*, in particular how we communicate the appropriate age range for items of equipment to parents and users. It would be our intention to roll out the new signage and revised inspection frequencies by the end of March 2018.

Accessible playground equipment

- 3.8 We currently have an ever increasing element of accessible playground equipment in all of our playgrounds, however we acknowledge there is much more work to do to make them even more inclusive. That said we continue to install playground equipment that is challenging, fun to use and inclusive for everyone (See Appendix 3 – some examples of inclusive playground equipment)

3.9 Finance and Resource Implications

None.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The process in this report will be subject to the Council's existing equality screening process."

A Member welcomed the positive work being undertaken and requested further detail in respect of the number of claims made.

A further Member sought clarification as to how locations for new playgrounds within the City were agreed.

Following discussion, the Committee:

- noted the positive collaborative work between City and Neighborhood Services and Legal Services to address the risks associated with a growing culture of litigation relating to Council parks;
- agreed that officers would submit a more detailed report in respect of claims to a future meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel; and
- agreed that officers would submit a report to a future meeting in respect of playground provision, detailing the criteria as to how sites for new playgrounds were identified.

Fullerton Park Cricket Equipment Storage Request

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that a request had been received from Dunmurry and Cooke Collegian's Cricket Club seeking permission to erect a fenced area in Fullerton Park for the storage of equipment.

The Committee noted that works had been carried out at Fullerton Park which included an artificial cricket wicket and an upgrade of the pitches. The two cricket clubs that currently used the park as their home venue wished to apply to the Alpha Landfill Communities to purchase cricket nets and screens to improve their game and if this was successful a storage area would be required for the equipment.

The Committee was advised that due to the current levels of anti-social behaviour it would not be possible to leave the equipment out overnight and the size of the equipment would preclude the use of a container, therefore, the alternative suggested was the construction of a fenced area.

The Committee granted approval to erect a fenced area in Fullerton Park for cricket equipment storage, subject to:

- the named clubs meeting any planning requirements and receiving funding from the Alpha Landfill Communities Fund; and

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- agreed that the Council would assume maintenance of the fence.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 2 Finance Report

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 2 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 2 position for the Committee which showed an under-spend of £675k or (1.7%) of the budget, with the forecast year end position being an under-spend of £603k (0.8%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Director advised that the main reasons for the Committee under-spend related to vacant posts across a number of services, the receipt of additional income and the timing of grants and programmes.

The Committee was advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 24th November, had agreed that given the year-end departmental underspend was within 0.5% of the approved budget it would not be considered for re-allocation.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

Parks Events Small Grants Scheme

The Committee considered a report which outlined the decisions taken by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, under delegated authority, regarding the Parks Events Small Grants applications received in Tranche 2 for events taking place in parks between 1st October, 2017 and 31st March, 2018.

The Director advised that a total of 10 applications had been received for the grant and reported that these had been assessed by the Open Spaces and Active Living Unit (OS&AL), 4 applications had met the criteria for an award to be made and 6 had been unsuccessful.

The Committee noted that an Independent Assessment Panel had reviewed a sample (20%) of the applications and had been satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants and had approved the recommendations for awards.

Accordingly, the Partnership noted the list of 4 organisations, as set out below, which had been approved for funding totalling £10,541.00, under the delegated authority of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.

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Appendix 1 - Parks Events Grant Applications 2017/18, T2

Successful Applications

| Organisation | Project Name | Venue | Date | Ward (most Beneficiaries) | Amount Requested | Amount Awarded |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens | Safe Communities | Sally Gardens Play Area | 15 February 2018 | Collin | £2,945.00 | 2,907.00 |
| St. Luke's Family Centre | SEN Play Community Fun Day | Drumglass Park | 3 November 2017 (date change from 27 October 2017) | Collin | £2,535.00 | 1,634.00 |
| Families of The Waterworks | Waterworks Monster Mash | Waterworks | 28 October 2017 | Oldpark | £3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| New Lodge Arts | North Belfast Lantern Festival | Alexandra Park | 29 - 30 October 2017 | Oldpark | £3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |

Operational Issues

Street Naming

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Grey Castle Manor, Off Church Road, BT6.

Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide further update to the Committee on the progress OF the public access defibrillator pilot programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the update on the pilot programme; and
- approve the proposed locations for the third phase of the public access defibrillator programme – Ormeau Park (depot area), Orangefield Park, Shore Road Playing Fields, Suffolk Playing Fields, Strangford Playing Fields, Loughshore Playing Fields, Musgrave Park and Ulidia Playing Fields. This is subject to the identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply and confirmation

with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there are no other public access defibrillators within a short distance;

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Update on first and second phase of public access defibrillator provision

Members will be aware the Council has been undertaking a public access defibrillator pilot programme. As part of this programme defibrillators were initially installed in 6 parks in May 2016, namely:

- Victoria Park
- Waterworks Park
- Fullerton Park
- Tullycarnet Park
- Boucher Road Playing Fields
- Falls Park

3.2 A second phase of installation took place in September 2017 across a further 7 Council sites, namely:

- Grove Playing Fields
- Cherryvale Playing Fields
- Blanchflower Stadium
- Wedderburn Playing Fields
- Woodvale Playing Fields
- Henry Jones Playing Fields
- Woodlands Playing Fields

3.3 Installation at Botanic Park and City of Belfast Playing Fields is also due to take place as part of the second phase. The installation at Botanic Park has been delayed due to the ongoing project at the Tropical Ravine. The installation at City of Belfast Playing Fields has been delayed due to vandalism of the defibrillator cabinet (see below).

3.4 Deployment

To date there are no records of any of the installed defibrillators having actually been used since the beginning of the pilot programme.

3.5 Damage/vandalism to Defibrillators

There have been a number of vandalism incidents to the Council's public access defibrillators during this pilot programme.

3.6 An incident involving the defibrillator at Waterworks Park resulted in the unit's paediatric pads having to be replaced, in addition to ancillary equipment (towel, razor etc). A number of incidents in Fullerton Park have resulted in the defibrillator being retrieved from the local PSNI station and on another occasion being damaged beyond repair (the defibrillator has since been replaced free of charge by the local manufacturer). The City of Belfast Playing Fields cabinet was damaged beyond repair before the defibrillator could be installed. A decision has now been taken to relocate the cabinet and defibrillator within the Pavilion building, which is accessible to the public while the park is open.

3.7 An additional two defibrillators have had to be temporarily withdrawn from service at Woodvale Playing Fields and Falls Park due to issues with the cabinet opening mechanisms. Discussions are ongoing with the Supplier to have these cabinets repaired or replaced and the defibrillators re-instated at the earliest opportunity.

3.8 Management

A number of local staff have been trained in the use of the defibrillators and further training is planned. Staff have also been trained and appointed to monitor the condition of the equipment on a regular basis.

3.9 Third phase of public access Defibrillator Provision

At the People and Communities Committee meeting on 13th June 2017, the Committee was informed of a donation of £5,408 from the family of the late Mark Murphy.

3.10 The Committee agreed to a third phase of installation across a further 8 Council sites, using the donation to cover the cost of buying the 8 defibrillators. The Committee was informed at the same meeting that the Murphy family had requested that one of the defibrillators was installed in Cherryvale Playing Fields as it is located close to the family home and is extensively used by many of the friends and families who have supported them in their fundraising. As Cherryvale Playing Fields was one of the agreed sites for the second phase this request and the erection of a plaque at the defibrillator in Cherryvale

Playing Fields to acknowledge the donation was agreed at this meeting. The plaque was unveiled and received positive media coverage on 19th August 2017.

3.11 During this pilot programme, the focus for public access defibrillators on Council sites has been on recreational facilities and those sites with significant public access or high footfall. Continuing with this focus on recreational facilities and recognising the specific reference to sports facilities within the Community Resuscitation Strategy and the Murphy family's wishes, the next phase of provision would be proposed for:

- Ormeau Park (depot area)
- Orangefield Park
- Shore Road Playing Fields
- Suffolk Playing Fields
- Strangford Playing Fields
- Loughshore Playing Fields
- Musgrave Park
- Ulidia Playing Fields

3.12 The provision of defibrillators at these sites would be subject to the identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply and confirmation with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there are no other public access defibrillators within a short distance.

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of 8 defibrillators for the third phase of the programme will be covered by the donation from the Murphy family. It was anticipated that costs associated with the cabinets and installation of the defibrillators would be covered by the funding already allocated to the second phase of defibrillator installation, however all funding allocated to the second phase has been used. The costs associated with cabinets and installation for the third phase of the programme and ongoing vandalism will be met by the 2017/2018 Parks Service budget.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Council's Good Relation Unit have advised that proposals for extending the deployment of defibrillators will have a positive effect on the Health and Wellbeing of people who work, live and visit Belfast and that this is a positive equality action."

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A Member highlighted that defibrillators were not available in the Council's community centres and requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting regarding the potential of extending defibrillator provision. He suggested that consideration be given to funding this programme of works from any in-year departmental underspend.

The Assistant Director advised that this would be considered and a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

Several Members made a number of suggestions as to where the defibrillators could be located and it was agreed to defer consideration in respect of the locations to the Area Working Groups.

The Committee noted that the location would be subject to the identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply and confirmation with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there were no other public access defibrillators within a short distance.

The Committee:

- approved progression to the third phase of the public access defibrillator programme and agreed that discussion regarding the location of the defibrillators would be undertaken through the four Area Working Groups, with a report to be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee; and
- agreed to assess the potential of extending defibrillator provision to other Council assets and that proposals would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Operational Delivery of Off Street Car Parking
Enforcement of Penalty Charge Notice Processing**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To brief members on options for the future delivery of off-street car park enforcement, cash collection, machine maintenance and penalty charge notice processing from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2022.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **agree to the renewal of the Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the provision of off street car parking enforcement and penalty charge notice processing for a further period of 3 years from 1 November 2019 until 31 October 2022**

3.0 Main Report

3.0 Background

- 3.1** Members will recall that the Transition Committee on 9 December 2015 agreed that Belfast City Council enter into an Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) to provide Off Street car parking enforcement and Penalty Charge Notice Processing (PCN) following the transfer of the Off Street car parking function under LGR. Under LGR 30 car parks transferred from Dfi to BCC, 17 of which were charged and 13 non-charged. This Agency Agreement initially covered the period 1 April 2015 to 31 October 2016 and given the short term of the agreement it was agreed at the People and Communities Committee of 6 September 2016 that BCC would agree to an extension the Agency Agreement with Dfi by a further 3 years taking the agreement up to 31 October 2019. This was consistent with the decision a taken by the other 10 Northern Ireland regional Councils.
- 3.2** Following the decision by Councils to continue with the Agency Agreement for the 2016-2019 period, the NI Regional Off-Street Car Parking Group, which each of the 11 Councils is represented, recommended to SOLACE, the appointment of consultants to investigate and assess the future delivery options associated with enforcement and PCN processing. AECOM were subsequently appointed via the SCAPE Framework for procurement.
- 3.3** Dfi have confirmed for procurement reasons they need to establish by start of January 2018 if individual Councils wish to extend the Agency Agreement beyond Oct 2019.
- 3.4** Following consultations with Councils, Dfi and service providers, AECOM has completed an analysis of the PCN Income (Estimated-vs-Actual); Comparisons of Traffic Attendant Billed Hours; Private Sector estimated costs; PCN Processing Costs; the experience of Parking Partnerships in English Councils; Council staff costs associated with alternative options; Collaborative Delivery; and Pay on Foot calculations.
- 3.5** Seven options were considered by AECOM:-
1. Renew contract with Dfi/NSL.
 2. a)Privately Delivered Service excluding debt collection.
 3. b)Privately Delivered Service (alternative provider) excluding debt collection.
 4. Conversion to Pay on Foot (all charged car parks).

5. Partial conversion to Pay on Foot and remainder Dfl Pay & Display.
6. Bay sensors and Automatic Number Plate Recognition enforcement.
7. Camera Monitoring and manual enforcement.

3.6 AECOM's produced a report the executive summary (Appendix 1) concluded that:

- Overall, Dfl's provision and operation of car park management and the Pay and Display enforcement system offers value for money and that it is considered to be reliable, of good quality and a safe system in terms of delivery and customer confidence together with the advantage of being part of a single enforcement system for on and off-street public sector car parking;
- By engaging with the private sector as part of this study, it is considered that some of the individual elements such as PCN processing could theoretically be delivered at a lower cost than the current arrangement. However, overall, private sector provision of a Pay and Display system may be more expensive given the uncertainties associated with debt collection and the additional staffing resources that may be required by Councils in relation to managing parking and debt collection;
- Any transfer to a private provider may incur transfer costs;
- Councils with Pay on Foot systems operated by Dfl may make considerable savings by changing their operating systems, but this requires further investigation by the parties involved;
- Some larger car parks with significant income from parking charges may benefit from conversion to Pay on Foot barrier systems which may also increase income if removed from the Agency Agreement and operated by Third Party providers. Such systems could potentially provide live parking data;
- For many of the car parks operated by Councils, Pay and Display systems are considered the most economically viable option at this time”;

- 3.7 The above conclusions apply to the regional 11 Council combined operation, however, as the implications will vary for each Council there is a need to consider each option from a Belfast perspective. Using the estimates within the AECOM report and officers conclude that options 2(a), 2(b), 6, and 7 would not likely be economically advantageous at this time over current arrangements or provide value for money to Belfast City Council.
- 3.8 Options 2(a) and 2 (b) require Councils to retain the existing P&D-based system with a private sector service provider largely replicating the service provided by Dfl with the exception of debt collection. Each Council would be required to employ additional staff and there would be additional costs incurred through the provision of a “clamping” pound and the necessary resources to operate it 6 days per week. Based on AECOM figures it is unlikely that these options would be economically advantageous to the Council.
- 3.9 Options 6 and 7 represent significant change over the current arrangement, it is estimated that both options would realise less surplus than the current arrangement with Dfl and can be discarded from consideration. However, advancement in technology may make both options more attractive in the future and they should be reviewed in the future.
- 3.10 Options 4 and 5 considered the conversion of the car parks from the current Pay and Display to a Pay on Foot barrier system and predicted some increased profitability based additional income and the £60K+ per car park initial capital investment being paid back over a 10 year period. These options fail however to take cognisance of fact that 5 of our current charged car parks are held on short term leases with no security of tenure and many of the remaining charged car parks are, consistent with our parking strategy and city regeneration strategy, at risk of redevelopment including for example as part of the York Street interchange. Therefore significant capital investment, particularly considering the assumptions made with respect to increased income, may not be appropriate at this time across many of our car parks.
- 3.11 It should also be noted there is a high degree of uncertainty with the estimates provided by AECOM as they were unable to segregate the costs of certain services; the number of additional staff and associated costs to Councils in alternative models; and therefore the definable potential savings did not reach the required deminimis level to give confidence to terminate the Agency Agreement with Dfl.

- 3.12 Officers agree with AECOM's conclusion that *“Overall, Dfl's provision and operation of car park management and the Pay and Display enforcement system offers value for money and that it is considered to be reliable, of good quality and a safe system in terms of delivery and customer confidence together with the advantage of being part of a single enforcement system for on and off-street public sector car parking.”* Whilst some individual Councils may benefit from changes to the systems currently operated and Belfast may benefit from converting some car parks to Pay on foot Barrier Systems, considering the long term uncertainty around the availability of individual car parks, the figures presented by AECOM would suggest it is likely that the current arrangements provide the most economically advantageous model at this time for the majority of the Councils car parks.
- 3.13 Members are therefore asked to consider extending the Agency Agreement with Dfl for a further 3 years up to end of Oct 2022 with the option to remove individual car parks to trial Pay on Foot barrier systems in some of our owned, higher turnover car parks unaffected by redevelopment proposals. Additional car parks could be converted to pay on foot should those trials prove to be economically advantageous.
- 3.12 Officers will continue to monitor changes in technology and associated costs that would allow other options to be further explored for potential future consideration.
- 3.15 Financial & Resource Implications
- Should Members agree to the recommendation that BCC renew the Agency Agreement with Dfl, the contract costs are likely to be in close proximity to existing costs and there are no major foreseen additional resource implications.
- 3.16 Additional capital expenditure (approximately £60K per car park) will be required to trial and convert some car parks to Pay on Foot barrier systems with the assumption, based on AECOM estimates, to more than recover costs over a 5 year period. Subsequent reports shall follow to progress this aspect.
- 3.17 Asset & Other Implications
- None
- 3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications
- None.”

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Following a query, the Assistant Director undertook to update the Member directly regarding the phased approach to updating the signage throughout the car parks.

The Committee authorised the renewal of the Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the provision of off street car parking enforcement and penalty charge notice processing for a further period of 3 years from 1st November 2019 until 31st October 2022.

Age Sector Platform Belfast Pensioners Parliament

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Age Sector Platform seeking the Council's support with the Belfast Pensioners Parliament 2018. A proposal had been received seeking a contribution of £3,000 and the use of The Great Hall, which would be used to host the event, for a day during March 2018.

The Assistant Director advised that the Age Sector Platform represented a strong unified voice for older people in Northern Ireland. It had a membership of individuals and older people's groups across Northern Ireland and represented approximately 200,000 people.

The officer reported that the Belfast Parliament event would be attended by up to 100 older people and stated that it would be a mutually beneficial event with Belfast City Council that would complement the Belfast Agenda and Age-friendly Belfast Programme.

The Committee agreed to contribute £3,000 and the use of the City Hall to Age Sector Platform to support the Belfast Pensioners Parliament in March 2018.

ParkLife Education Programme – Evaluation

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that the ParkLife Education Programme used and promoted the Council's parks and open spaces as a resource for outdoor learning. She advised that it had been in operation since 2007 and she outlined the three main elements of the Programme, as follows:

- supervised sessions provided to 42 Primary Schools in Belfast. School children walked to their local park to learn about nature, the environment and parks' heritage. The Programme had direct links to the curriculum and was delivered to Key Stage 2 children;
- Saturday Clubs were held on a monthly basis in 6 parks across the City and children, along with their families, participated in themed activities; and
- educational sessions were held with 10 community groups in the local parks with activities tailored to suit the needs and abilities of each group.

The officer reported that an evaluation of the Programme had been undertaken between September 2016 and June 2017 by Queens University Belfast and the Members were advised that a copy of the Evaluation document was available here

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The Assistant Director advised that based on the findings presented, the report recommended that:

- learning outdoors through the ParkLife Education Programme was a very positive experience for children and should be regarded as an example of good practice;
- the Programme should continue to be delivered in its current model so that many more children could participate and benefit from it; and
- the Council should consider sharing its learning from the Programme and the report with other Councils and organisations.

In relation to future research, the report recommended that:

- the evaluation should be repeated at a later date to increase the sample size, to examine the Programme in more depth, build a larger evidence base and take into account potential further outcomes not previously considered; and
- a qualitative study, such as focus groups, with the children should be incorporated in the evaluation to enable a deeper analysis of their understanding of the Programme and its impact on them.

The Committee:

- noted the contents of the report and the ongoing success of the ParkLife Education Programme; and
- endorsed the ParkLife Evaluation report including key findings and recommendations and agreed to support the related publicity for the report that was scheduled to take place in January 2018.

Dog Friendly Badging Scheme

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held on 12th September, at the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Committee had agreed to investigate the introduction of an opt-in badging scheme that would indicate which premises in Belfast were dog-friendly.

The Assistant Director advised that officers had since undertaken web based research and established that there was a number of on-line resources dedicated to the promotion of dog friendly facilities, including 'Dugs'n'pubs', 'Bring Fido', 'The Kennel Club' as well as TripAdvisor.

The Committee was informed that officers from the Council had held discussions with colleagues from Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI) who had advised that it maintained a webpage of pet friendly activities, including details of pet-friendly accommodation, dog walks and dog-friendly restaurants.

The officer reported that Hospitality Ulster had offered to support the proposed scheme and to contact bars and restaurants in Belfast with a view to generating awareness and knowledge of how relevant businesses might participate in the scheme. Hospitality Ulster had also offered to assist with the marketing of the scheme.

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It was highlighted that, whilst a number of non-accommodation premises had signed onto the TNI listings, there was no appropriately branded badge for the business owners to display. It was noted that a scheme could either be progressed regionally by the TNI or by Belfast City Council locally.

The Members were advised of the following three key strands of the scheme, as follows:

- social media and website – each business could market its pet friendly facilities and events using its own social media platforms, the Tourism NI website and the Belfast Welcome Centre;
- industry information and marketing – in collaboration with Hospitality Ulster, the Council could provide bars and restaurants across Belfast with information regarding TNI's established processes and how business owners could, if they wished, opt into the scheme; and
- branding and badges – the Council could consider assisting with the design, production and distribution of appropriate and agreed branded badges at the participating premises, subject to partners' supported agreement. The Council would not be responsible for managing such a scheme but would assist with promoting it.

The Committee authorised officers to continue to liaise with other organisations and noted that an update would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Dog Statistical Returns (DAERA)

The Committee noted that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) was to commence publishing statistics on its website on the Dog Warden's enforcement activities undertaken by all Councils in accordance with The Dog (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

Noted.

Request for the use of Ormeau Park

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Cancer Research UK seeking permission to hold a Race for Life 'Pretty Muddy' event at Ormeau Park on 1st September 2018 from 10.00 a.m. The organisers would require access to the park on 31st August from 9.00 a.m. to set-up for the event and would be on site until 10.00 p.m. on the day in order to dismantle the event. The Committee was further advised that the organisation had advised that it wished to make this an annual event based on the success of previous events at this location.

The Committee approved the Cancer Research UK event at Ormeau Park on 1st September 2018 and all subsequent annual 'Pretty Muddy' events at this location, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser:

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- resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and
- agrees to consult with the adjoining public bodies and local communities as required.

Proposed Visit of the Royal Horticultural Society Bulb Committee to the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show in 2019

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group (NIDG) requesting that the Council would join with them in extending a joint invitation to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Bulb Committee to attend the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show which would be held in Barnett Demesne in 2019.

In the correspondence the NIDG had indicated that the RHS Bulb Committee might be interested in holding its late Daffodil Show in Belfast in an effort to spread and increase its influence beyond London. It was noted that the RHS rarely held its shows outside of London and for Belfast to host this event would be a great boost to local horticulture and recognition of the unique and historic and current position that Northern Ireland holds throughout the world as a centre specialist for daffodil breeding.

The Committee agreed that:

- the Council and the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group (NIDG) extend a joint invitation to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Bulb Committee to attend the City of Belfast Spring Flower Show to be held in Barnett Demesne in 2019;
- the Council would provide the hospitality associated with the proposed visit. It was estimated that this would cost approximately £2,244.00 and would be met from within existing budgets; and
- Council officers would attend meetings with the RHS Shows Manager and the NIDG to make the necessary preparations and arrangements for the visit.

Dog Control in Open Spaces

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To inform Members of proposals for public consultation in relation to options for controlling dogs off leads in our parks and Open Spaces. A number of ideas will be put to the public to gauge opinions and allow for any creative responses to be considered. The consultation process is to inform options and no decisions have been made in terms of implementation.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- approve the process outlined and agree to bring a report to committee for approval.

3.0 Main report

3.1 A sizeable percentage (approx. 20%) of park users are dog walkers; this was evidenced in the SOPARC¹ surveys carried out in 2015 in conjunction with QUB. One of the objectives of the Council is to promote responsible dog ownership and dog control within our parks assets in order to provide spaces that are safe and welcoming for all users.

3.2 Currently 'dogs off lead' in our outdoor facilities is enforced under BCC bye-laws as follows:

'A person having charge of a dog shall keep the dog on a lead and under proper control, and restrained from giving reasonable cause for annoyance or alarm to other persons'

3.3 Any person convicted of this offence will be liable to a £500 fine.

3.4 In order to promote responsible dog ownership and not simply through enforcement, BCC engage in awareness raising activities, partnership working with schools, community groups and outside agencies working across the Council. Therefore, the enforcement powers available under the bye-laws simply provide a useful additional tool to the ongoing work of the Council in seeking to address all dog related issues across the city.

3.5 The Council are seeking to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children, to have access to areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restriction.

¹ SOPARC is a methodology developed with QUB to measure use of parks and open spaces.

- 3.6 As a background, The Clean Neighbourhoods Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which became law in Northern Ireland on 01 April 2012 contains a range of legislative measures to improve the quality of the local environment by giving district councils additional powers to deal with a range of issues including dogs.
- 3.7 In terms of dog related issues, the legislation allows us to introduce four dog control orders as below:
1. Prohibit dog fouling
 2. Make it an offence to allow dogs off lead in designated areas;
 3. Exclude dogs from designated areas; and
 4. Limit the number of dogs that one person can be in control of at any one time.
- 3.8 Number 1 and 4 above have been implemented by the council, however we are seeking to implement measures outside of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Legislation and use existing byelaws, complemented with additional measures agreed through a public consultation process, to control dogs off leads in our sites in a balanced way that meets the needs of all of our users.
- 3.9 Feedback received from a consultation exercise carried out in 2012 in relation to dog control in Parks, highlighted the requirement for facilities that allow dogs to exercise off lead. To inform decisions on future initiatives it was proposed to run a pilot project in North Belfast to introduce a dog enclosure in Grove Playing Fields.
- 3.10 The pilot project has been in operation for over a year and the dog enclosure has now become a permanent feature of the park and continues to grow its user base as we adapt and improve the facility through ongoing feedback and engagement with our customers.
- 3.11 The information gained from the consultation exercise helped us to better understand all the issues and complexities around the dog issues in Parks and has assisted Council officers to consider options to assist with dog control in parks.
- 3.12 Officers have identified a number of options to provide dog owners with areas in parks where dogs can be allowed off leads. If agreed the new arrangements would be supported by enforcement powers that would be implemented by our Warden Service as required.

3.13 Two options have been identified as operationally viable:

1. The Introduction of additional dog enclosures in the following areas.

- East Belfast – Orangefield Park
- West Belfast – Falls Park
- South Belfast – Clement Wilson Park

3.14 The proposed dog enclosures would be modelled on the successful enclosure in Grove Playing Fields. The fenced enclosure creates no doubt or confusion with regards to where dogs are allowed 'off lead' at all times in that particular open space.

2. Time zoning system – this option allows for dogs to be off lead and exercise in the entire park, or designated areas of the park, but only at certain times of the day. E.g. One hour am and one hour pm. This option provides a potential solution for those users who are unable to visit the local 'dog enclosure' either on a particular day or on an on-going basis due to mobility issues or other reasons.

It is proposed that this option would be more beneficial on condition that option 1 is implemented in tandem, as both options complement each other in providing facilities for dogs off lead at all times within a neighbourhood.

It is proposed that the 'Time Zoning System' will be piloted in our 17 Green Flag accredited sites across the city for one year with a further report being brought back to committee in early 2019 after all relevant data and statistics from the pilot have been analysed.

3.15 Proposed Time Frame

Timeframe for implementation:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Consultation on proposals | Feb-Apr 18 |
| Committee approval | May 18 |
| Implementation of new enclosures by | Sept 18 |
| Review of new measures | Sept 19 |

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications.

The installation of fenced enclosures in the three sites listed above will cost in the region of £15k each. These costs will be met through area revenue budgets.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee agreed to the proposals for public consultation in relation to options for controlling dogs off leads in Council parks and open spaces and noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Pollinators

In accordance with notice on the agenda Councillor Milne raised:

“The Council should recognise the value of pollinators, which contribute an estimated £600 million to the UK economy by enabling food production. In the past few years pollinator numbers have declined, which not only has an economic cost with regards to food production, but is also detrimental to biodiversity. The negative impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides are well documented, and are a contributing factor towards the fall in pollinator numbers. The UK government’s declaration to commit to the EU’s further restrictions of neonicotinoid pesticide applications, even in the event of Brexit, is therefore welcome.

I would request that the Committee agrees to write to the European Commission outlining Belfast City Council’s support of the further EU restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticide applications and also write to the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) detailing both support for the proposed restrictions and agreement that such restrictions should be retained in the event of Brexit.

Additionally, I would request that the Committee agrees to further improve local biodiversity outcomes by investigating the feasibility of increasing and improving habitat provision for local pollinators, as outlined in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2015-2020).”

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Milne addressed the Committee and explained the detail behind the reduction in the number of pollinators and the detrimental impact that had already been made in respect of food production, the economy and biodiversity.

Following discussion, the Committee:

- agreed to write to the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural

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- Affairs (DAERA) detailing the Council's support for the proposed restrictions and its agreement that such restrictions should be retained following Brexit; and
- noted that the Council was currently preparing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan in conjunction with the Council's Local Development Plan.

Matters referred back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion – Not-For-Profit Energy Company

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th December, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Milne, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes that the Scottish Government and a number of local authorities have established not-for-profit energy firms in search of new revenue, to restore faith in public services and tackle fuel poverty.

The Council notes that the first and best-known publicly owned energy companies, Robin Hood Energy in Nottingham and Bristol Energy, have given consumers, particularly those on low incomes, more choice and the option of a supplier whose only job is to secure the lowest price for consumers.

The Council agrees to explore the potential benefits of establishing a Belfast City Council owned not-for-profit energy company to tackle fuel poverty in Belfast.”

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

Notice of Motion – Homelessness

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th December, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McCusker and seconded by Councillor O'Neill, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes the concerns around the lack of suitable provision for families and individuals who present as homeless, requiring temporary accommodation. With an increase of 32% in the number of people presenting as homeless in the past five years and a recent report that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) strategy at reducing homelessness has had limited success, the Council calls on NIHE to undertake an urgent review of the current provision. The Council also notes that we still have rough sleepers in the city and calls on all organisations, including the Council and NIHE, to meet urgently to ensure their needs are being met as the weather conditions continue to decline.”

Councillor McCusker outlined his concerns in relation to the growing homelessness problem in the City and stated that he would welcome a meeting with

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Housing Executive representatives prior to Christmas in order to discuss homelessness and possible temporary accommodation over the Christmas period.

The Chairperson advised that due to the busy schedule of meetings it was unlikely that a meeting would be able to be facilitated within such a short timeframe and it was suggested that Councillor McCusker could, if he so wished, arrange to meet the NIHE himself.

A Member highlighted that the next quarterly Special People and Communities Committee with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to address housing issues was scheduled to take place on 31st January, 2018 and stated that the Member could raise his concerns in relation to homelessness at this meeting. He also advised that the special meetings had been poorly attended and encouraged greater attendance at future meetings.

The Committee noted the motion and agreed that homelessness would be added to the agenda for the Special Meeting of the People and Communities Committee (Housing Issues) on 31st January 2018.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 6th December, 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, Johnston, Kyle, Magee,
McAteer, McDonough-Brown, Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor Hargey and Howard.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 8th and 21st November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson (Councillor O'Donnell) declared an interest in Item 7a, Draft East Bank Development Strategy Update, in that she was a member of the Short Strand Partnership, which had responded to the consultation.

Matters Referred back from Council

Notice of Motion: Belfast's Historic Environment

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th December, had considered the following notice of motion which had been proposed by Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Campbell:

"Belfast boasts a rich historic environment that is both distinctive and irreplaceable. The continued care and conservation of these unique assets and their re-use as part of the heritage-led regeneration of Belfast will not only recognise the intrinsic value of the City's historic built environment but also ensure that these invaluable assets will significantly contribute to prosperity, culture, pride of place, tourist income generation and a general sense of health and wellbeing.

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This Council will encourage imaginative and creative approaches to Belfast's conservation and heritage assets to ensure that they are protected, re-purposed and developed as an important driver for sustainable economic development and job creation, the provision of much needed housing, community and cultural animation and the creation of environments and public spaces that citizens and visitors alike can enjoy.

This Council will work to inform, shape and embed imaginative and creative approaches to Belfast's conservation and heritage assets in the outworking of the Belfast Agenda, the Local Development Plan, the European Capital of Culture, Belfast City Deal and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018."

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

A Member suggested that officers could provide a report with examples of best practice in other cities in relation to preserving and re-purposing the City's built heritage.

A further Member agreed and highlighted the importance of retaining the unique characteristics which made Belfast different to other cities.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the motion; and
2. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting to include information on the protection and promotion of the City's historic built environment; examples of best practice in other cities for the protection and repurposing of historic buildings; and ways in which the Heritage Lottery Fund could be utilised.

Presentation

Invest NI

The Committee was advised that, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 9th August, representatives from Invest NI were in attendance to provide the Committee with the 2017 Regional Briefing for the Belfast City Council area.

The Chairperson introduced Ms M. Loughran, Regional Business Manager, and Ms. F. Johnston, Statistician, to the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Regional Business Manager outlined Invest NI's Business Strategy 2017-2021 which followed an outcomes based approach. She described how it supported and encouraged 30,000–40,000 additional jobs and increased business expenditure on research and development by £160-£200million.

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She outlined that Invest NI's key focus was on sectors in which N.I. was currently world class, such as advanced engineering and manufacturing, agri-food, construction, financial services, or, where N.I. had the potential to be world class, such as the Cyber Security sector.

The Statistician provided the Committee with an overview of the Entrepreneurship ecosystem and advised it that worked closely with the Council to provide help to businesses at the right time in order to help them navigate the market.

She advised the Members that 70% of people in the Belfast area were economically active, compared to the N.I. average of 73%.

A Member pointed out that only 6% of those who were in employment in Belfast were self-employed, compared to 12% across Northern Ireland. The statistician advised the Committee that encouraging entrepreneurship from an early age was important in increasing those numbers and that a co-ordinated approach was required.

A further Member pointed out that there were thousands of farmers who lived outside of the Belfast City Council area, all of whom were self-employed, and that the figures were surely skewed in that regard.

The Director of Development added that, historically, there were more job opportunities in Belfast and graduates in particular had developed a low risk attitude towards seeking employment, whereas in other Council areas such as Mid Ulster, for example, less employment opportunities existed which had led to a higher level of entrepreneurship and local business start-ups.

A further Member stated that there was a perception that overseas companies which wished to set up an office in Belfast were treated more favourably than local businesses. The Director of Development challenged that and added that the services and programmes which were offered by the Economic Development Unit, in conjunction with Invest NI, had created 800 jobs since April 2017.

In response to a Member's question regarding the different aims and outcomes, the Committee was advised that, since Local Government Reform in 2015, programmes to target social enterprise, social value frameworks and cooperatives had transferred to the eleven Councils.

In relation to female entrepreneurship, the Statistician added that this had also passed to the Councils under Local Government Reform, and that the latest Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) data had shown an increase in female entrepreneurs.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting to provide an update on what the Council was doing to increase entrepreneurship levels in the City, to include information on female entrepreneurship, self-employment in disadvantaged areas and engagement with young people outside of schools.

Restricted Item

The Information contained in the following report 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 this item as, due to the nature of the item, 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.

World Irish Dancing Championships 2022

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 12th April 2017 it had agreed, in principle, to support hosting the World Irish Dancing Championships in 2022.

He explained that Belfast had been invited to bid for the World Championships and had subsequently been offered the 2022 Championships, taking place between 9th and 18th April 2022.

He stated that Belfast had previously hosted both the All Ireland and World Dancing Championships. He pointed out that those events had seen a large visitor footfall in the city, with an estimated economic return of 5:1 for the All Ireland Championships.

The Director advised the Committee that he was now seeking formal approval to host the event, inclusive of financial resources.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed to the hosting of the 2022 World Irish Dancing Championships in Belfast, cognisant of the £400,000 cash required from Belfast to stage the event;
2. noted that the finance would come from the Council making provision each year from within the Department's existing budgets; and
3. noted that officers would seek additional support from Tourism NI closer to the event year.

Requests to Present to Committee

Translink – Weavers Cross/Transport Hub

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Translink to present to the Committee on the subject of the new Transport Hub, known as 'Weavers Cross'.

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The Director of City Centre Development advised the Committee that it was considered an appropriate time for Translink to present their updated proposals and the overall programme for Weavers Cross to the Committee. She outlined that Translink would advise the Members on certain issues which had been of interest to Members previously, including:

- how Translink would engage and consult with local communities on the Outline Planning application;
- potential social and economic benefits of the scheme;
- how it would intend to construct the Transport Hub whilst ensuring 'business as usual' and minimum disruption for the city and its residents; and
- how Translink was working with the Council and other partners to bring forward the development of the wider Weavers Cross scheme.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that a request to present to the Committee had recently been received from the Transport Hub Alternatives Group.

A Member suggested that the Committee invited both Project Hope and the Transport Hub Alternatives Group in to present their views on the Transport Hub.

A number of Members felt that the presentation from Translink should be heard initially, given that Translink would inform the Committee of its proposals for engagement.

After discussion, the Committee acceded to the request from Translink to present to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in January on the Transport Hub/Weavers Cross and, after having received that presentation, agreed that it would then consider whether it wished to hear from other interested parties at a future date.

South Belfast Partnership Board

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a request from the South Belfast Partnership Board to present to a future meeting, to allow further information to be sought as to the reasons why it wished to present to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, and that officers would submit a report on the development, the area and any potential relationship to the One Bankmore Square development.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Special meeting Update – Potential Impact on the Economy of the U.K. Leaving the E.U.

The Director of Development provided an overview of the Special Meeting on Brexit, which had taken place on Tuesday, 21st November 2017.

He outlined that the meeting had provided an opportunity for the Committee to focus on Brexit, to explore some of the issues and opportunities for Belfast with input from

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a range of expert perspectives, including the movement of people, the role of the local economy and the business perspective as well as broad economic forecasts for the City and the City-region dependant on the nature of the deal.

He stated that the Council's role in continuing to show leadership to drive inclusive economic growth was vital, particularly given the uncertainty in the political, economic and global environment.

In response to a Member's request, it was agreed that copies of the four presentations would be circulated to all Members of the Committee for their reference.

The Committee noted the issues raised and agreed that officers would continue to monitor developments and bring further updates to future Committee meetings to ensure delivery of its inclusive growth strategy, the Belfast Agenda.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Draft East Bank Development Strategy Update

(Mrs. A. McGlone, Regeneration Project Officer, attended in connection with this Item)

The Chairperson declared an interest in Item 7a, Draft East Bank Development Strategy Update, in that she was a member of the Short Strand Partnership which had responded to the consultation but, as the item was for notation, she did not leave the room.

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 responses received during the public consultation exercise on the draft East Bank Development Strategy and to advise of the intention to undertake a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the draft Strategy.**
- 1.2 A summary of the consultation and engagement process undertaken is set out on modern.gov. Organisations and individuals who responded are identified on modern.gov. Appendix 3 summarises responses from those who completed the consultation questionnaire on-line and are available to view on modern.gov. Appendix 4 on modern.gov summarised the comments of those who responded by e-mail or letter and includes detailed comments from respondents to the on-line questionnaire.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note comments received through the consultation exercise to date and note that a further report will be brought to committee addressing any comments to responses together with the SEA;
- Note the intention to take forward a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for the area;
- Note the intention to report back to Committee on a finalised version of the Strategy for approval in late spring/early summer 2018.

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1** In June 2016 Committee approved the draft East Bank Development Strategy for consultation. The 12-week consultation period commenced on 7th July and ended on 29th September.
- 3.2** The process is summarised on modern.gov. A total of 190 responses were received. Organisations and individuals who responded are identified on modern.gov. There were 22 responses via citizenspace of which the majority are positive or very positive.

Statutory Agencies

- 3.3** In terms of statutory agencies, almost all were supportive. DfI Transport Strategy Division's response was non-committal (Appendix 4, pages 5-8 – available on modern.gov) subject to further traffic modelling being undertaken while DfI Rivers notes that the document needs to say more about how to address present-day flood risk to the proposed development as well as the impact of future climate change and in particular, potential sea level rise due to climate change (see Appendix 4, pages 4-5 on modern.gov).
- 3.4** In light of the comments relating to flood risk and others received relating to protected habitats and environmental considerations, the Council conducted an SEA Determination (a 'screening' process) in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and has

concluded that an SEA (Environmental Report) and HRA is required.

3.5 The responses from statutory agencies are summarised below:

1. Department for Communities (DfC) is supportive and will use the document to inform its development brief for Queen's Quay (see Appendix 4, pages 3-4 on modern.gov);
2. DfI Rivers is critical of the document in terms of its lack of reference to assessment of flood risk (see Appendix 4, pages 3-4 on modern.gov);
3. DfI Transport Strategy Division has provided qualified support, in that it emphasises the need for more traffic modelling in advance of major infrastructure changes (see Appendix 4, pages 5-7 on modern.gov);
4. NIHE is also broadly supportive and would support a 20% affordable housing requirement across the Strategy area (see Appendix 4, pages 12-13 on modern.gov);
5. Translink is also generally supportive but notes that further traffic modelling is required before agreeing to proposals to re-locate the TQ rail halt. (see Appendix 4, pages 35-38 on modern.gov).

Community Groups and Members of the Public

3.6 Eastside Partnership responded positively, welcoming the inclusion of Sirocco, the 'shatter zone' and Odyssey Quays within one plan and supporting the four place-making themes identified as enabling the East Bank to become fully integrated with the city centre, bringing the centre 'across the river', and connecting Titanic Quarter to the city centre. The Partnership is keen, however, to retain the existing TQ rail halt and also offered suggestions for inclusion in the finalised document (see Appendix 4, pages 8-10 on modern.gov).

3.7 84 drawings and illustrations were received from an event described as the Youth Urban Almanac organised by the Eden Project and facilitated by Seed Head Arts which was attended by 60 young people aged 8 to mid 20s. Most of the ideas relate to public realm and use of the river and were innovative and original including permanent and temporary suggestions, for example bandstands for buskers, giant chess sets, concrete table tennis tables, open air swimming pools and boardwalks. (see Appendix 4, page 10 on modern.gov).

- 3.8 Lagan Currachs support better access points to the Lagan and makes a number of suggestions for activities on the water as well as by the river, including houseboat infrastructure. They disagree with proposals to relocate the railway station on grounds of cost. (see Appendix 4, pages 10-11 on modern.gov).
- 3.9 Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) response, which is generally supportive, focuses on accessible transport, safe streets and accessible information. In particular, it emphasises the importance of barrier free access to the pedestrian environment and barrier free access to different modes of transport to support inclusive and independent living for people with sight loss. Of concern, are any proposals for 'shared surfaces' in public realm schemes. RNIB does not support the use of flush surfaces and recommends that the memorandum guidance on kerb heights in public realm schemes produced by the Department for Regional Development (issued in May 2015) is adhered to. Within this guidance it states that: 'For public realm schemes, and in line with best practice, it is recommended that a 'standard' kerb height of 125mm should be generally used.' This response reflects comments which RNIB submitted to the public consultation exercise which the Council undertook on the Linen Quarter Public Realm Vision and Guidance in 2015. (see Appendix 4, pages 17-23 on modern.gov).
- 3.10 Titanic Foundation generally agrees with the vision and reiterates the importance of the East Bank being fully woven into the fabric of the city centre to include Titanic Quarter. The Foundation believes it is important to look at the whole of the Lagan with a view to achieving an animated waterfront on the East Bank that continues to include TQ and beyond - as far as HMS Caroline and the Thompson Dock. The concept of a Maritime Mile between Donegal Quay and HMS Caroline has been developed as part of the TQ Destination Plan and Titanic Foundation will be progressing this as a theme which ultimately will link key tourism, heritage and employment hubs. The Foundation generally agrees with proposed interventions other than that to re-locate the rail halt. Further transport modelling is required before agreeing / disagreeing with this move. (see Appendix 4, pages 33-35 on modern.gov).
- 3.11 However, 74 letters of objection were received from Short Strand residents on grounds that a land allocation for affordable/social housing has not been identified within the Sirocco site. Two similar letters from St Matthew's Housing Association and the Short Strand Partnership on the same grounds but also referring to the failure to identify the

Translink bus garage on Mountpottinger Street as a development opportunity for housing and leisure uses. The bus garage is outside the Strategy area and the city centre strategy boundary. Both St Matthew's and the Short Strand Partnership also referred to a deficit of leisure facilities for Short Strand residents and the need to address this in the East Bank Strategy. (see Appendix 4, pages 25-29 on modern.gov).

Major Landowners

- 3.12 Responses were received from Turley Associates on behalf of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Titanic Quarter and Swinford (Sirocco). There were no major points of contention in the first two responses (see Appendix 4, pages 1-2 and 14-16 on modern.gov). However, Sirocco (Swinford) while supportive of the majority of the draft Strategy and the Sirocco design principles set out in Appendix 3 of the draft Strategy, view the 'prescriptive way in which the Strategy moves beyond the high level conceptual diagrams on pages 18 and 19 and imposes the basis of a masterplan to interpret these principles' as 'not acceptable, nor is the approach to phasing' (see Appendix 4, pages 29-33 on modern.gov).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 3.12 The final strategy will be used as a framework for development across the East Bank and accordingly, there may be environmental issues given the previous use of the land. In light of some of the comments received during the public consultation exercise, it was decided to undertake an SEA Determination (a 'screening' process) in consultation with DAERA to determine if an SEA (the Environmental Report) and HRA is required and the conclusion is that they are. Work has begun and it is anticipated that the Environmental Report will be available for public consultation by February 2018. The statutory consultation period is 12 weeks enabling a report to be brought back to Committee by June 2018 at the earliest. Any significant issues arising in the course of the SEA will be reported back to Committee and reviewed in the finalised Strategy. A verbal update on the process for dealing with comments to the consultation will be provided at committee.

3.14 **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

As part of the public consultation undertaken to date, engagement took place with those Section 75 groups listed on the Equalities Unit's contacts database and the draft Strategy

was circulated at the Equality Consultative Forum on 26th September. Further equality and good relations screening will be conducted in parallel with the proposed consultation processes described in paragraph 3.13.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost of the SEA and HRA is met from existing and projected budgets for 2017/18.”

The Regeneration Project Officer provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the responses which had been received to the public consultation.

In response to a Member’s request that, given the scheme’s significance in the east of the city, the Committee would be provided with an interim draft of the Strategy addressing comments raised, the Chief Executive agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting, with a final report brought in the Spring/early Summer 2018.

The Committee:

1. noted the comments which had been received through the consultation exercise to date and noted that a further report would be submitted to the Committee addressing any comments to responses together with the SEA;
2. noted the intention to take forward a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for the area; and
3. noted that an interim report addressing comments raised would be submitted to the Committee, with a finalised version of the Strategy presented for its approval in late spring/early summer 2018.

VuCity Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide an update on VUCITY: the 3D model of Belfast

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the roll out plans for VUCITY, the 3D model of Belfast**
- **Agree that a licence agreement is entered into with VUCITY**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Following approval in January 2017, Members will be aware that the Council has been working on developing a 3D model of Belfast, in partnership with VUCITY. The model will be operational from February 2018 and will cover 52 square kilometres of Belfast, (see Appendix 1 on modern.gov).

3.2 VUCITY will provide an interactive 3D view of the city and will assist with displaying and exploring:

- emerging developments
- planning applications / approvals
- development potential of Council sites and other key city sites
- promotion of Belfast as a place to invest and as tourism destination
- citizen engagement and consultation and potential community impact and opportunities

3.3 It was initially envisaged that the model would cover the City Core, City Airport, Titanic Quarter, North Foreshore. This has been extended to cover an area of 52sq / km, most of Belfast City Council's boundary. The model is rendered as a minimum in block detail, up to level of detail (LOD) 3. Users can view, zoom and rotate, from a whole area right down to the detail of one building.

3.4 The VuCity model of Belfast includes:

- A fully interactive 3D model of Belfast city, extending over 52sq/km
- An accurate city model including terrain to 15cm.
- Street level walk mode
- Ability to explore Belfast viewpoints in virtual reality
- Ability to integrate protected views
- Sunlight / shadowing simulation
- The potential to overlay real time transport information
- Ability to integrate other relevant council data e.g. flood risk, noise, demographics, traffic and pedestrian modelling
- Integration of proposed projects which could inform decision making processes for planning or investment
- Increased understanding of the development potential of sites

3.5 It is anticipated that the users of VUCITY will include: elected Members, planners, the development community, potential

investors, architects, agents, community hubs, transport engineers and decision makers.

- 3.6 There are wide ranging uses of VUCITY within council including: data visualisation; promotional tool to market the city; and assisting with the planning decision making process. Members should note that while there is no statutory requirement for developers to use VUCITY as part of their planning application process, they will be encouraged to use it as part of the pre-application discussions.
- 3.7 VUCITY has presented to the Development Community in March 2017 and at the Developers' Forum in June 2017, and previously at the Agents' Forum and Belfast Strategic Issues Group. It has been very positively received. Given the wide-ranging uses of VUCITY, City stakeholders and partners are also being encouraged to use it.
- 3.8 In January 2017, Committee granted approval for officers to explore establishing an appropriate partnership with VUCITY for the development and roll out of a 3D Model of Belfast.
- 3.9 VUCITY has proposed a licence agreement with Belfast City Council. This would initially be for one year, with the option to extend. This is the approach other councils have taken and proved very successful.
- 3.10 This licence agreement is to be agreed with and by the City Solicitor. It will be a licence for 1 year, with an option to extend on an annual basis to a maximum of 3 years.
- 3.11 VUCITY is currently available as a software package for laptop and desktops, however a web-based platform and i-pad friendly version are currently in development and will be available in 2018. VUCITY also integrates onto interactive touch tables.
- 3.12 Equality and Good Relations implications
- None.
- 3.13 Finance and Resource Implications
- The £25,000 cost includes the licence fee, hardware requirements, staff training and data integration."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Visit Belfast

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 the Committee on city tourism performance and to provide details of Visit Belfast’s marketing, sales and visitor servicing activity to date.

1.2 The report also seeks authority for Visit Belfast to attend the March 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to present their business plan and request for financial support for the financial year 2018/19.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report and the progress to date.
- Agree to receive a presentation on Visit Belfast’s 2018-19 Business Plan in March 2018 for the consideration of the Agency’s request for ongoing financial support into 2018/19.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

As Members will be aware, Visit Belfast is the city’s Destination Marketing Management Organisation (DMMO) dedicated to marketing Belfast as a city break, conference, day-trip and cruise ship destination. It also, in its visitor servicing role, manages the operation of three gateway Visitor Information Centres (VICs) including Visit Belfast Welcome Centre, Arrivals George Best Belfast City Airport and Arrivals Belfast International Airport and a range of visitor servicing initiatives on behalf of Belfast City Council.

3.2 Visit Belfast represents over 500 tourism businesses and services across the tourism industry and its core purpose is to create and service visitors for Belfast and Northern Ireland in order to generate an economic benefit for the city region, creating jobs and wealth.

- 3.3** The role of Visit Belfast is to drive visitor numbers and increase visitor spend, by providing a mechanism for co-ordinating investment and market engagement. The organisation has a portfolio of marketing, sales and visitor servicing activity across both leisure and business tourism.
- 3.4** 2017-18 is the second year of a four-year strategy (2016-20) that aims to deliver a cumulative 1.4m bed nights, 680,000 cruise visitors, 3 million enquiries and £392m into the local economy by 2020. Visit Belfast is on target to achieve the milestones set for 2017-18.
- 3.5** Visit Belfast's strategy is an essential tool in growing the visitor economy in Belfast and Northern Ireland and, in particular, in achieving the Belfast Agenda commitment to increase the value of out-of-state tourism to £500million by 2021.
- 3.6** Urban tourism continues to drive tourism on a global basis and Belfast continues to increasingly lift Northern Ireland tourism, contributing up to half of the NI visitor economy. Last month, the renowned travel guide Lonely Planet named Belfast (alongside the Causeway Coast) as their No. 1 region to visit in 2018; while earlier in the Autumn, Belfast was shortlisted as 'a leading European City Break destination' by the World Travel Awards. The city has also been successful in winning the Rising Star category at the National Geographic Traveller Awards in London, another major coup for the city.
- 3.7** Tourism, and in particular out-of-state tourism, has become a key economic driver for the city region, generating revenue and contributing to job growth. Belfast is central to the region's tourism ambitions and it is not simply about increasing hotel capacity, though private sector investment in hotel development will see over a thousand hotel rooms come on line by the end of 2018. Titanic Belfast's enduring popularity, the opening of HMS Caroline, the expansion of the Belfast Waterfront and the development of community-based tourism initiatives such as Failte Feirste Thiar and Eastside Partnership, in tandem with concerted Visit Belfast marketing, contributes to the Belfast Agenda and its stated outputs.
- 3.8** Belfast has experienced unprecedented tourism numbers to date in this calendar year, and projections from NISRA indicate that the economic impact for the city will exceed that of 2016, which was £334 million.

3.9 Outlined below is a summary of the performance so far this year in relation to hotel performance, sales and marketing, business tourism and cruise tourism. The figures below relate to the period January – September 2017 and performance is compared to the figures for the same period the previous year.

3.10 Belfast Hotel Performance (January-September 2017)

Between January-September, room occupancy stood at 82.3%, which is an increase of 3.5%. Room sales have increased by 3.9% and hotel revenue has increased by 18.6%. It is worth noting that occupancy figures spiked throughout the summer months, with June occupancy being 92% and 93% throughout August. On average, room occupancy during the summer months (April – September) was 87.9%.

3.11 Destination Interest and Visitor Servicing (January-September 2017)

Interest in Belfast as a destination of choice has increased. This is demonstrated by figures from Visit Belfast which show that the Visitor Centre handled 679,337 enquiries and welcomed 264,064 visitors through the doors. Both figures are reported to have increased by 18.4% and 21.3% respectively on the same period last year. The profile of these visitors is broken down as 22% from GB & NI, 14% Spain & Portugal, 9% Germany & France, 5% Asia, 3% ROI and 2% other world. Visitor service support is also provided at core events in the city. This is done through the provision of an information stand/point for delegates. Examples of such provision have been in relation to the Routes Europe Conference, the Women's Rugby World Cup, and the UEFA Under 19 Women's Football Championship.

3.12 Cruise Belfast

The City welcomed unprecedented numbers of cruise ships this year. 94 ships arrived into Belfast Harbour, carrying an estimated number of 158,000 cruise visitors to the city, again an increase of 10.8% from last year. The economic benefit achieved this year from cruise tourism is estimated to be £6.6million. Planning is already underway for 2018, and it is expected that up to 200,000 cruise visitors will come to Belfast. This will generate an economic return in the region of £8.5million.

3.13 Conferences in Belfast 2017

The city will welcome this year a total of 71 conferences, which will generate an estimated 79,315 bed nights, again an increase of 7%. The economic benefit is estimated to be in the region of £34.1million. Given the long lead-in times, Visit Belfast is also working on attracting future events. Visit Belfast has achieved conference wins for the city worth £33million, this is estimated to generate 60,000 bed nights over the next 4 years. In addition to this, an In-Market Sales Manager has been appointed, based in London, whose focus of work is on the UK Association and Corporate conference market. From taking up post on the 1st October, the manager has established seven conference leads for Belfast, worth an estimated £5m.

3.14 Leisure Tourism & Marketing

Seven marketing campaigns have been delivered, worth around £303,000. These have targeted Berlin, Republic of Ireland, London, Amsterdam, Manchester and Scotland. The aim of these campaigns is to generate 235,000 leisure bednights. Importantly, these campaigns allow Visit Belfast to lever significant partner income: £2 for every £1 of its investment in out-of-state marketing. Additionally, web and digital marketing has generated 916,000 visits to visitbelfast.com and 631,000 social media engagement so far this year.

3.15 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no specific equality or good relations implications.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications attached to this report. The Council support for Visit Belfast in 2017/18 is £1.8million.”

In response to a Member’s question as to how many more hotels Belfast needed, the Chief Executive pointed out that hotel occupancy figures had spiked in Belfast during the summer months, with occupancy at 92% in June and 93% in August. She added that 5% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was raised by tourism, in comparison to 10% on average across the U.K. and that there was still significant potential for Belfast to add and increase visitor stays.

It was pointed out by another Member that more hotels would create a more competitive market for visitors to the city.

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In response to a Member's question regarding the Council's Employment Academies for the hospitality industry, the Director of Development clarified to the Members that the academies were not only providing training and recruitment for the newly built hotels in the city, but were also working with established hotels in Belfast.

The Director added that he and officers from the Employability and Skills team would be meeting with the Chief Executives of the Hotel Federation and People 1st to discuss and agree how the Council could further support job creation across the hotel sector.

A further Member suggested that Visit Belfast should examine how many visitors were using Airbnb in the city, given its recent popularity.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Nashville

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that, through the International Relations Framework 2017-2021, the Council's focus of international activity was on the City's Sister Cities of Boston, Nashville and Shenyang. He advised that the US Stakeholder Group focussed on opportunities to secure partner buy-in to locally based events aimed at furthering the relevant city-to-city links.

The Committee was advised that one of the opportunities which had been identified was the potential to organise a 'Nashville in Belfast' event to promote the long-standing relationship with Nashville. The Director stated that it was anticipated that the events would serve to bring new partners to the Sister City collaborations, expand current collaborations and promote our local product, talent and investment opportunities to the incoming delegation. He added that the programme would also drive footfall and business into the city through the range of events on offer.

He outlined to the Members a number of initiatives which were under development, including:

- a programme launch as part of Lord Mayor's Day on 28th April, 2018;
- a joint city concert on 29th April in the Ulster Hall;
- a Nashville themed Twilight Market at St. George's on 1st-2nd May;
- a Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival music event on 5th May; and
- lunchtime family heritage workshops through the Ulster Historical Foundation between 1st-4th May.

The Director stated that the BBC had expressed an interest in a number of interviews to promote the programme and that discussions were ongoing with the Nashville Sister City Committee, who had agreed to investigate the possibility of bringing a Nashville musician to Belfast for a select number of performances. He added that this might also open the opportunity of the events being broadcast to Nashville.

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The Committee was also advised that work was ongoing to explore whether a State Department Trade Mission could link in with the 'Nashville in Belfast' dates to facilitate Nashville businesses coming to Belfast in conjunction with Invest NI, in order to promote Belfast as an investment location and to deliver business workshops for local companies interested in doing business in the United States.

A number of Members expressed their support for the programme.

A Member requested that officers look at ways in which music could be incorporated along the Belfast City marathon route and, given the dates of the Nashville Inward Mission, that those visiting from Nashville could be made aware of the date of the Marathon.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. the development and promotion of the "Nashville in Belfast" events at a maximum cost of £20,000 from within the International Relations existing budget, noting that the cost would include the hosting of an inward Nashville delegation to coincide with the programme dates; and
2. that officers would look at ways in which music could be incorporated along the Belfast City marathon route, given the overlap in dates, and if those visiting from Nashville could be made aware of the date of the Marathon, 7th May 2018, given the proximity of the Nashville Inward Mission.

Strategic and Operational Issues

European Capital of Culture Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on the recent developments in regards to the European Capital of Culture 2023 competition.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and that an options report on potential next steps will be brought forward when further information becomes available from Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sports (DCMS) and European Commission.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that the ECOC2023 bid is a two staged process with the initial key milestone recently reached with the stage 1 Bid Book submitted to DCMS on 27 Oct 2017.

- 3.2 A formal presentation (pitch) of stage 1 bid submission, followed by a detailed Q&A session with a panel of 12 National and European experts had been scheduled for Tuesday 28 November 2017. This process would have determined which of the five competing cities would be shortlisted to stage 2 of the process.
- 3.3 As Members will be aware, the European Commission recently announced that the UK will not be eligible to host the European Capital of Culture in 2023 along with a city from Hungary. On this basis, DCMS has written to all five competing cities confirming that the pre-selection presentation has been postponed. DCMS has also confirmed that senior political and official dialogue and negotiations are ongoing with the European Commission to try to put the ECOC competition back on track. The Council is actively involved in supporting these ongoing discussions. Once these negotiations have concluded we will proceed with the publication of the details of the bid.
- 3.4 On the 28 November, the five competing UK cities met with representatives from DCMS including John Glen MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, to discuss the current position and possible next steps. A joint press statement from the 5 cities was released thereafter. In summary, the statement:
- acknowledged the huge and passionate support received locally, nationally and internationally in response to the surprising announcement by the European Commission;
 - recognised the commitment given by DCMS to try and resolve this issue and agree a clear way forward for the cities involved;
 - urged DCMS to continue negotiations with the European Commission on the legitimacy of its decision, particularly in the context that the UK has not yet left the EU and the terms of that departure are not yet agreed;
 - five cities have collectively requested that DCMS takes further legal advice on the status of the announcement as a matter of urgency;
 - recognised the urgent need to reach a conclusion in a timescale that allows the momentum created within the cities to be maintained.

- 3.5 During Prime Minister's Question Time on 29 November, the First Secretary of State, Damian Green confirmed that Ministers are in urgent talks with the European Commission over the decision to exclude UK cities from entering the European Capital of Culture. He further stated that *'we are making sure that all those cities who applied can continue with their cultural development because cultural development has been shown to be an extremely good basis for the regeneration of cities and towns across the United Kingdom.'*
- 3.6 Clearly, the position taken by the European Commission comes as a great disappointment to the city of Belfast, our citizens and wider cultural and business community who have invested significant time, energy and resources in the preparation of our bid. As part of the process the Council engaged directly with over 16,000 people, 120 stakeholder meetings and workshops as well as 5,000 surveys completed.
- 3.7 The Lord Mayor has recently written to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker as well as the three Northern Ireland MEPs seeking urgent meetings to explore what options exist to help reinstate the process. This would allow our citizens, our cultural sector and wide range of partners to realise the ambition, energy and opportunities contained within the bid.
- 3.8 The Committee will be kept fully informed as further information on a possible way forward becomes available.

4.0 **Financial & Resource Implications**

All financial and human resource implications attached to emerging options in terms of way forward will be brought to Committee attention.

5.0 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None."

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Dates for Special Meetings

The Committee agreed the following dates for Special meetings during 2018, which would receive presentations only and would only be held if required:

- Wednesday, 24th January;

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- Wednesday, 21st February;
- Wednesday, 28th March;
- Wednesday, 25th April;
- Wednesday, 23rd May;
- Wednesday, 27th June;
- *No meeting in July;*
- Wednesday, 22nd August;
- Wednesday, 26th September;
- Wednesday, 24th October;
- Wednesday, 28th November; and
- Tuesday, 18th December.

The Committee agreed that those meetings would also commence at 5.15pm.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 2 Finance Report

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Quarter 2 position for the Committee showed an overspend of £44,000, while the year-end position was forecasting an underspend of £179,000.

She pointed out to the Committee that the overspend related to less income received than budgeted, and an increased spend on supplies and services which was offset by vacant posts across a number of services.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Tuesday, 12th December, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillors Boyle, Dudgeon, Kyle,
Mullan and Walsh.

Also attended: Alderman Rodgers;
Councillors Armitage, Heading and McReynolds.

In attendance: Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Chairing of Meeting

In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson at the beginning of the meeting, it was agreed that Councillor Walsh take the Chair.

(Councillor Walsh in the Chair)

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson), the High Sheriff (Alderman Haire), Aldermen Kingston and L. Patterson and Councillor Hargey.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Armitage and Mullan declared an interest in Item 2a, BeITel LLP, in that they were Members of the Planning Committee. The Director of City Centre Development advised the Committee that, as the presentation was for information only, and as long as they did not make any comments which would commit them to any particular course of action in relation to the proposals, there was no conflict in them being present for the presentation.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the following report 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 this item as, due to the nature of the item, 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.

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BeITel LLP

The Acting Chairperson introduced Mr. S. Surphlis, McAleer & Rushe, Mr. P. Beacom, McAleer & Rushe, and Mr. M. Kininmonth, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris architects (AHMM), to the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Kininmonth provided the Committee with an overview of the design for the former Belfast Telegraph site. He outlined that they would refurbish and upgrade the 1889 Belfast Telegraph Building and that they planned to reintroduce the dormer windows which were once along the top floor of the building.

Mr. Surphlis explained that McAleer & Rushe were longstanding investors in Belfast and that they saw this project as a great opportunity for that area of the city centre, particularly the adjacency to the Ulster University's new campus and the emerging digital and tech sector in the city. He explained that the floorplans would be flexible to the tenants' requirements.

Mr. Beacom advised the Committee that McAleer & Rushe and the Council had jointly acquired the building last year and that interim tenants were already occupying parts of the building.

In relation to a Member's question regarding car parking, Mr. Surphlis advised the Committee that, while the design was still at a schematic stage, he did not envisage providing more car parking than was necessary for the tenants and that it would be in the basement of the complex. He outlined that the project would go through the usual exercise with Transport NI in that regard.

In response to a further Member's question, he confirmed that the delay to the completion of the new Ulster University campus would not impact upon the BeITel LLP project.

The Committee thanked the representatives for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Presentations – City Infrastructure

Transport NI

The Acting Chairperson introduced Mr. K. Monaghan, Eastern Divisional Manager, Mr. T. McClay, Belfast North Section Engineer, Mr. G. Doherty, Belfast South Section Engineer, and Mr. C. de Burca, Director for Transport Projects and Business Services in the Department for Infrastructure, to the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Monaghan provided the Committee with updates on the main strategic transportation schemes for the city. In relation to the York Street Interchange, he advised the Members that the tender process to appoint a contractor to bring the scheme to construction-ready stage had been completed but that the tender award could not occur due to a legal challenge. He advised the Committee that a date for the legal hearing had

**Special Meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
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been agreed for February 2018 and that, following a Ministerial approval, the process of consulting local residents and key stakeholders on issues identified in the Inspector's Report had since commenced.

He provided the Members with an update on the extension of the bus lanes along the M1, between the Applegreen services and the Sprucefield Park and Ride site at Blaris, and citybound on the M2 between Fortwilliam and Duncrue Street. He reminded the Committee that tendered costs for the project had come in significantly higher than expected, and so the contract had not been awarded. He explained that a review of the works had taken place, where they had considered the technology used in the smart motorways across the UK, and that a new scheme would be going out to tender early next year.

He advised the Committee of the creation of the Antrim Road tidal urban clearway, from the Cliftonville Road to the M2 over-bridge, which would operate citybound lanes between 8am and 9.30am and countrybound lanes between 4.30pm and 6pm.

He also highlighted to the Members that the first Residents' Parking scheme would shortly be implemented in the College Park Avenue/Rugby Road area in south Belfast, subject to satisfactory completion of the statutory procedures.

The Committee was also advised that Transport NI had recently received funding from the Department for Communities to widen and resurface the Comber Greenway and that this would take place in the early part of 2018.

Mr. de Burca provided the Members with an overview of a number of the recently completed works across the east and west of the city in preparation for the introduction of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme, which was due to launch in September 2018.

He advised that an average of 3 halts per week would be installed across the city, with 103 halts in total.

During discussion, he pointed out that, while the recently replaced roundabouts on the Whiterock Road and Kennedy Way had drawn some criticism initially, the traffic flow had improved. He highlighted that the CITI route works had been suspended over Christmas.

He advised the Members that an example of the new 'Glider' vehicles which would be used for BRT would be on public display at Custom House Square, on 13th and 14th December 2017, from 11am-3pm.

He highlighted that the consultation on the 12-hour bus lane legislation for BRT was open and that the deadline was 12th January, 2018.

During discussion of the recent snow and ice, Mr. Monaghan outlined that main roads, those being roads with more than 1500 vehicles or hilly roads with more than 1000 vehicles per day, were gritted across Belfast, as were settlements with more than 100 dwellings. He outlined that this network covered most schools but not all.

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In response to a Member's question regarding the collection of grit from the Transport NI HQ at Airport Road, he advised the Members that they did not provide grit outside their HQ anymore due to a previous legal challenge.

In response to a Member's question about the North/South line of BRT, Mr. de Burca advised that preliminary studies had been carried out and that there were a number of possible routes for the line to take, particularly in the south of the city.

A further Member questioned the Department's rationale behind the prohibition of vehicles travelling from Donegall Square East onto Adelaide Street during bus lane operating hours. Mr. de Burca explained that this arrangement had been implemented as part of Belfast on the Move scheme to deter traffic from using that route as a short cut through the city centre from the northwest to the southeast of the city. He clarified that the Department's view was that the current arrangement was a success, and highlighted that the number of motorists illegally driving from Donegall Square East onto Adelaide Street had decreased from a daily average of 106 in September, 2015, to an average of 35 per day in September, 2017.

(Councillor Dudgeon, Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair)

The Members drew the attention of the officers from Transport NI to a number of other matters, a number of which are set out hereunder:

- that Transport NI would directly consult those traders which fronted onto Wellington Place, Chichester Street and Queen Street, regarding the operational hours of the loading bays in the City Centre;
- that a Residents' Parking scheme for the Malone/Wellington Park area would continue to be considered;
- that Members would send the names of streets which required gullies to be cleared and locations streetlights which needed repaired directly to Transport NI;
- to consider whether yellow lines were necessary in Lower Donegall Road and Fitzwilliam Street;
- that Transport NI representatives would undertake a site visit to consider changing the crossing at My Lady's Road/Ravenhill Road to a pelican crossing;
- that Transport NI would liaise with the developer who was carrying out construction in Montgomery Street/Joy Street to discuss ways in which traffic disruption could be minimised;
- that Transport NI would consider moving the bus lane from Glengoland Avenue to Glengoland Park;
- to provide information on the adoption of the Colinvale development in Dunmurry;
- to consider the replacement of the traffic crossing at the Knock Road A55/Braniel estate junction with a Toucan crossing or a cyclists crossing (funding dependent);

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- that a site visit would take place to consider increasing the size of the yellow box at the junction of Great Victoria Street and the Grosvenor Road; and
- that the out of hours contact number for Transport NI would be circulated to the Members.

Mr. Monaghan advised that, where relevant, action would be taken on these issues by Transport NI if it was deemed necessary after inspection.

After discussion, the Deputy Chairperson thanked the representatives from Transport NI for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

NI Water – Living With Water

(The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Dudgeon and Councillor Armitage were in attendance)

The Deputy Chairperson advised that Mr. S. Wightman, Living With Water Programme Manager in the Department for Infrastructure, and Mr. P. Brow, Head of Living With Water at NI Water, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the meeting had become inquorate and no official business could be conducted.

However, the remaining Members agreed that the presentation should continue in the form of a briefing for those still present and that a copy of the briefing would be circulated to all Members.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 13th December, 2017

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman L. Patterson; and
Councillors Baker, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Clarke,
Collins, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Heading, Hussey,
Hutchinson, McConville and McReynolds.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Mrs. L. McGovern, Solicitor;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Carson and Howard.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th November 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 December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

New Member

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Baker, who had replaced the former Councillor Bell, to his first meeting and thanked the former Councillor for the contribution which he had made to the work of the Licensing Committee.

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)

Licences issued under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licences which had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

**Applications for the Renewal of Annual Indoor Entertainments
Licences with Previous Convictions – AM:PM / Voodoo**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider applications for the renewal of Indoor Entertainments Licences where the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) within the previous five years.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented, you are required to consider the applications and to:

1. approve the applications, or
2. should you be of a mind to refuse any of the applications, or approve any applications with additional special conditions, an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the Committee must be given to the applicants.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence applications which are not the subject of objections is that the licence will be granted as provided for within the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.
- 3.2 However, as each applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the Council, you are required to consider the following applications:

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| Premises and Location | Applicant | Application Type | Offence Details | Date of Conviction and Penalty |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">St Paul's GAC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">98c Shaw's Road Belfast BT11 8LN</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Caroline McLaughlin</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Renewal</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">28 March 2015</p> <p>Entertainment taking place in an area (1st Floor) not covered by the Entertainments Licence; The appropriate pre-entertainment checks had not been completed prior to entertainment taking place; A games machine was obstructing a final exit; and The main entrance door was not being manned.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10 November 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 months Conditional Discharge and ordered to pay court costs of £69.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">AM:PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">38-44 Upper Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GH</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">AM:PM Limited</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Renewal</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">20th May 2016</p> <p>Rear final escape door was obstructed; Rear escape stair was obstructed; Rear escape corridor on the ground floor was obstructed; Fire door was held open on the ground floor escape route; All escape routes, including stairways, were not maintained with non-slippery and even surfaces; Entertainment was being provided on the 2nd floor which is an area not covered by the Entertainments Licence; and The Entertainments Licence was not being displayed.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">On appeal: 6 January 2017</p> <p>£2750 and £66 Court costs.</p> <p>Charges 1-5 £500 each, Charge 6 withdrawn 7-8 £250 each.</p> <p>Original penalty was £3250 – charge 6 was withdrawn – penalty reduced to £2750.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|

Notwithstanding the possibility of refusing an Entertainments Licence on any other grounds, the Council may refuse an application on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Order.

Application History

- 3.3 Previous applications for the aforementioned premises were considered by the Committee as follows:

St Paul's GAC

- 3.4 This is the third time an application for the premises has been considered by the Committee since being convicted of the offences on 10th November, 2015.

- 3.5 The previous renewal applications were considered by the Committee, in relation to these convictions on 14th December, 2016 and 19th August, 2015 and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.

- 3.6 Since you last considered the application, the premises have been subject to one further during performance inspection as well as a renewal inspection. The premises were satisfactory and management procedures were being implemented effectively.

AM:PM

- 3.7 This is the second time that an application for the premises has been considered by the Committee since the applicant was convicted on 6th January, 2017.

- 3.8 The previous renewal application was considered by the Committee on 18th January this year and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.

- 3.9 Since you last considered the application the premises have been subject to two further during performance inspections as well as a renewal inspection. The premises were satisfactory and management procedures were being implemented effectively.

Representations

- 3.10 Public notice of the applications has been placed and no written representations have been lodged as a result of the advertisements.

PSNI

- 3.11 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that it has no objections to the applications. A copy of each of its responses has been circulated to the Committee.

NIFRS

- 3.12 The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to each of the applications and has confirmed that it has no objections.

Applicants

- 3.13 The applicants and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to their applications. Copies of the respective application forms for the premises have been circulated to Members.

3.14 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment which is catered for within existing budgets.

3.15 **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.”

The Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of AM:PM, 38-44 Upper Arthur Street and St. Paul’s GAC, 98c Shaw’s Road.

Application for the Variation of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence – Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 122 – 124 Royal Avenue

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th October, it had agreed to grant to Limelight Belfast Limited a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the ground floor of the former Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 124-144 Royal Avenue.

The Building Control Manager reported that an application had now been received for the variation of that licence, based upon the Council’s standard condition to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind. He explained that entertainment was provided currently from Monday to Sunday till 1.00 a.m. in the main hall, Room 2 and the bar area and lobby of the ground floor. The company was now seeking to extend the hours of operation on each night till 3.00 a.m. the following morning, with a view to aligning the venue with others in the area and attracting more international acts to the City. On all such occasions, the company would operate a public bar facility under an Occasional Liquor Licence.

He confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. In such circumstances, it was normal practice for the Entertainments Licence to be issued under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

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However, given that the application related to the extension of the hours of entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m., it was being presented to the Committee for consideration.

The Building Control Manager reported further that the premises had been inspected as part of both the Entertainments Licensing and the Building Regulations application process and that officers had been present on the only two nights on which entertainment had been held to date, namely, 30th September and 24th November. On all occasions, it had been established that the required safety measures and management procedures had been put in place to protect performers, the public and staff. He added that measures had, as part of the previous application, been implemented to minimise disturbance to neighbouring premises and that no complaints had been received in relation to the aforementioned two events. Officers of the Building Control Service would continue to engage with the Environmental Protection Unit on noise management at future events.

The Committee was advised that Mr. A. Simms, representing Limelight Belfast Limited, was in attendance and he was invited to provide clarification around the number of nights on which the company was proposing to provide entertainment till 3.00 a.m., given that it could, on the basis of its application, potentially operate till that time on every night of the year.

Mr. Simms explained that the company had applied to operate till 3.00 a.m. on every night of the year primarily to eliminate the need to submit further applications to have the Entertainments Licence varied at some point in the future. He pointed out that the lease agreement between the company and BELTEL LLP permitted up to a maximum of four events to take place in any given month and that it was not the company's intention to breach that agreement.

In response to a number of questions, Mr. Simms confirmed that, whilst the market might not allow for more than two events to be held till 3.00 a.m. each month, the company was, nevertheless, seeking the Committee's approval to host up to four events, with a view to maximising its potential income over the period of the lease.

Mr. Simms was thanked by the Chairperson.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman L. Patterson,

That the Committee agrees to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 122-124 Royal Avenue, to enable entertainment to take place till 3.00 a.m. the following morning on up to a maximum of twenty-four nights per year.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Boyle,
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

That the Committee agrees to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 122-124 Royal Avenue, to enable entertainment to take place till 3.00 a.m. the following morning on up to a maximum of forty-eight nights per year.

On a vote by show of hands twelve Members voted for the amendment and three against and it was declared carried.

The amendment was thereupon put to the meeting as the substantive motion and passed.

Application for the Renewal of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence – Hawthorn Bar, 1 – 3 Hawthorn Street

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Hawthorn Bar based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.**

| Premises and Location | Ref. No. | Applicant |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Hawthorn Bar, 1- 3 Hawthorn Street, Belfast, BT12 7AQ | WK/201701273 | Mr. Philip McCann, 84 Glen Road, Belfast, BT11 8BU |

- 1.2 Members are reminded that objections were received from local residents regarding the initial grant application. However, in the lead up to your meeting on 15th March 2017, an agreement was reached between all parties that the objections would be withdrawn, subject to the applicant agreeing to a number of conditions of licence.**
- 1.3 As a result, you agreed to grant the Entertainments Licence for a period of six months.**
- 1.4 A copy of the minute of the meeting of 15th March has been circulated to Member.**
- 1.5 A location map has been forwarded to the Committee.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented and representations received in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:

- 1. approve the application for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence, or**
- 2. approve the application for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence with special conditions, or**
- 3. refuse the application for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence.**

2.2 If the 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.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The areas currently licensed to provide indoor entertainment are the:

- Ground floor bar with a maximum capacity of 40 persons.**

3.2 The days and hours during which the premises are currently licensed to provide entertainment, are:

- Thursday to Saturday: 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 a.m.**

3.3 Following your meeting on 15th March, the following special conditions were attached to the licence:

- 1. the licence will operate for a period of six months;**
- 2. entertainment will be restricted to a Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with the hours of operation being 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 a.m. the following morning;**
- 3. a maximum of 40 persons will be permitted in the ground floor bar whilst entertainment is taking place;**
- 4. the licensee will attend meetings, as and when required, with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and representative groups drawn from local residents, with those to be chaired by Council officers;**

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5. the licensee will proactively clean around the perimeter of the premises;
6. the licensee will ensure that bottles and glasses are not disposed of by staff at closing times;
7. the licensee will provide residents with a direct point of contact and the contact number of the person responsible for managing door staff;
8. the licensee will erect and maintain signage inside the premises and in the rear external area requesting patrons to respect local residents and keep noise levels to a minimum;
9. the licensee will ensure compliance with the requirements of the Noise Report, to the satisfaction of the Council, and the Entertainments Licence will be issued only when all technical matters have been addressed; and
10. taxi notices will be kept and maintained on the premises and will warn patrons and taxi firms that undue noise or disturbance will not be permitted and that the licensee shall take such action, including legal action, if necessary, to enforce that requirement.

Representations

- 3.4 As a result of the application to renew the licence both the original objectors and the PSNI initially advised that they wished to object to the application. Several meetings have been held with all parties and both the PSNI and the residents have confirmed that they wish to withdraw their objections.

Objectors Representations

- 3.5 A letter, signed by a number of residents of the area, has been received and a general summary of their representation is listed below including:

- serious concerns about the operation and management of the premises, which has caused serious distress for many years, given the fact the bar is located in a highly populated residential area;
- regular complaints have been made to PSNI and Belfast City Council in relation to the unacceptable level of noise in a built up residential area from noisy patrons, amplified music and taxi horns;
- concerns regarding the applicant complying with the law relating to the Liquor Licence and Entertainments Licence as they have been complaining that patrons

have been drinking in the bar beyond their permitted hours;

- witnessing anti-social behaviour, public urination, alcohol consumption and sexual acts within the alleyways;
- residents have been subjected to verbal abuse and foul language from staff; and
- Concerns regarding vermin, rubbish and storage in the alleyway.

- 3.6 The letter also makes reference to the premises Liquor Licence and applications which Mr. McCann has made to the Court to renew the licence and to extend the permitted hours to 1.00 a.m., under Article 44 of the Licensing (NI) Order 1996. A copy of the letter has been circulated to the Committee.

PSNI

- 3.7 The PSNI initially objected following inspections of the premises which found that the applicant was allegedly operating without a Liquor Licence after failing to renew his Liquor Licence. This is currently being investigated by the PSNI. A copy of its response has been forwarded to Members.
- 3.8 Police Officers will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.

Liaison meetings

- 3.9 As stated, several meetings have taken place since Committee granted the premises an Entertainments Licence. The meetings were attended by PSNI, objectors and the applicant. One of the meetings was also attended by Councillor Tim Attwood.
- 3.10 An agreement has been negotiated and an Action Plan developed, which all parties have signed up to. The Action Plan is based on a number of the previous conditions, together with additional conditions the PSNI and residents have requested to be included.

Agreement

- 3.11 The applicant has confirmed that he is willing to agree to the Action Plan and to the following conditions being attached to the terms and conditions of his Entertainments Licence. A copy of the Action Plan has been circulated to the Committee.
1. the licensee must attend meetings, as and when required, with the PSNI and representative groups

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drawn from local residents, chaired by the Council, to discuss issues relating to Entertainments Licensing;

2. the licensee must install and maintain a suitable CCTV system both internally and externally to the premises. The position of cameras must be in agreement with the PSNI and any footage must also be made available to them and/or the Council should it be required;
3. the licensee must maintain signage internally and externally to the premises and provide announcements at the end of the night asking patrons to respect the residents in the area and keep noise to a minimum when leaving;
4. the licensee must ensure that noise from entertainment and patrons does not cause unreasonable disturbance to residents in the neighbourhood;
5. the licensee or a nominated responsible person shall be available during the whole time that the premises is open to the public, and shall be assisted by sufficient staff;
6. taxi notices must be maintained on the premises. The notices shall contain a warning to patrons and taxi firms that undue noise or disturbance will not be permitted and that the licensee shall take such action, including legal action if necessary to enforce that requirement;
7. the licensee must regularly and proactively clean around the perimeter of the premises and ensure they cause no obstruction within the rear alleyways;
8. the licensee must ensure patrons do not carry opened or unopened bottles or glasses off the premises at any time;
9. the licensee must ensure bottles and glasses are not disposed of by staff at closing times;
10. the licensee must maintain a regular point of contact for residents to relay any concerns they may have;
11. shutters outside final exit doors to be secured in open position to ensure that they will not impede escape; and
12. all doors on means of escape to be free from restrictive fastenings other than panic bolt type mechanisms.

Committee Protocol

- 3.12 As a result of the negotiations and the development of the Action Plan, both the objectors and PSNI have withdrawn their objections.
- 3.13 The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting along with a delegation of objectors should you have any queries in relation to the application.

Health, Safety and Welfare Issues

- 3.14 A total of four during performance inspections have been carried out on the premises by Officers from the Service since your meeting on 15 March 2017. The inspections included monitoring and observations outside the premises. On each of these occasions no entertainment was taking place.
- 3.15 As part of the renewal application process an inspection was carried out and all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures were found to be satisfactory. The inspection also verified that noise measures previously stipulated are being managed effectively.

NIFRS

- 3.16 The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has confirmed that it has no objection to the Entertainments Licence being renewed.

Noise Issues

- 3.17 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the application and confirmed that it has received a total of four noise complaints since your meeting on 15th March, 2017. The complaints were received over two separate nights and related to loud entertainment music and patron voices from the premises.
- 3.18 The Noise Team responded to two of the complaints and on both occasions the bar was closed and no noise was witnessed. On the other two occasions, the Noise Team were unable to respond to the other complaints received due to their workload and time constraints. Officers of the Building Control Service followed up with all parties thereafter.

3.20 Financial and Resource Implications

Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment but this is catered for within existing budgets.

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.”

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial, in advance of considering the application, to obtain details around the current status of the application for the renewal of the venue’s Liquor Licence. Accordingly, Inspector A. Swann, representing the Police Service of Northern Ireland, was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Inspector Swann informed the Committee that a Liquor Licence was required to be renewed every five years and that the licensee of the Hawthorn Bar had informed the Police Service of Northern Ireland that he had been unaware of the fact that his licence had not been renewed. He confirmed that it was his understanding that the application had been adjourned by the Court on 7th December, at the request of the applicant’s representative, and that it would now be considered on 18th December.

In terms of the venue’s Entertainments Licence, Inspector Swann pointed out that the detailed action plan which had been agreed between the licensee, the objectors, the Council and the Police Service of Northern Ireland would form the basis for the effective management and monitoring of the premises in future.

Inspector Swann was thanked by the Chairperson.

It was reported that Councillor Attwood had requested the opportunity to address the Committee on behalf of the objectors to the application and he was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Councillor Attwood reminded the Committee that it had, in renewing the premises’ Entertainments Licence in March, attached a number of conditions, on the basis of objections which had been raised and subsequently withdrawn around the operation of the premises. He explained that, shortly afterwards, those issues had re-emerged, which had led to the objectors to object initially to the current application.

He welcomed the fact that the action plan, which had now been agreed by all parties, had included the installation of closed-circuit television, both inside and outside the premises, and concluded by urging the Council and the Police Service of Northern Ireland to ensure that the plan was fully adhered to.

Councillor Attwood was thanked by the Chairperson, who then welcomed Mr. P. McCann, the licensee of the Hawthorn Bar, to the meeting.

Mr. McCann informed the Committee that he had worked in the licensed trade for forty-two years and that he had owned the Hawthorn Bar for the last eighteen years.

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He explained that the closed-circuit television which had been operating in the bar since he had assumed control had been upgraded and that, as had always been the case, recordings would be made available to the Police Service of Northern Ireland or others, should it be requested.

In response to a number of questions from the Committee, Mr. McCann confirmed that his application for the renewal of the Liquor Licence had not been adjourned and that it was being heard for the first time by the Court on 18th December. He stated that he had a good relationship with the residents of Hawthorn Street, some of whom frequented the premises and were supportive of his application, and that the objections to the renewal of his Entertainments Licence had originated primarily from Cavendish Street. He pointed out that an arrangement was in place with a taxi company for the collection of patrons and that its drivers were well aware of the need to refrain from sounding their horns whilst outside the premises. He added that he should not be held accountable for vehicle noise generally, given that the bar was situated on a main thoroughfare and concluded by highlighting the fact that the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had received only a minimal number of complaints regarding noise nuisance from his premises.

Mr. McCann was thanked by the Chairperson.

During discussion, the Building Control Manager addressed a number of issues which had been raised by Members during the course of the presentations. He confirmed that, should the Committee agree to defer the matter, the applicant could continue to operate under the terms of his current Entertainments Licence until his application had been determined and that the licence could be renewed in the absence of a Liquor Licence. He confirmed also that, in accordance with a condition which had been placed upon the Entertainments Licence, a liaison meeting, involving all of the relevant parties, had taken place in July. Further meetings had taken place, albeit with limited success, up until a meeting in November at which agreement had been reached around the current action plan.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Bunting,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the application for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Hawthorn Bar, 1-3 Hawthorn Street, until such time as the application for the renewal of the Liquor Licence had been determined.

On a vote by show of hand five Members voted for the proposal and eleven against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Hawthorn Bar, 1-3 Hawthorn Street and to attach to the licence the special conditions which had been agreed within the action plan, as set out within paragraph 3.11 of the report.

Consideration of Designating Resolutions for Street Trading Sites

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting on 19th April, you granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the designation of a number of new Street Trading Sites across the City, which have been identified as a result of applications or expressions of interest received from individuals wishing to trade from new sites.
- 1.2 At that meeting, the Committee also granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the variation of the commodities and services which are permitted to be offered at a number of other designated sites that are already licensed.
- 1.3 Members will also recall that, at your meeting of 21st June, a further report was presented to you as the Department for Communities, the landowner of Blackstaff Square, had written to the Council requesting that the street trading pitch within Blackstaff Square be rescinded.
- 1.4 The Committee subsequently granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the rescinding of the designating resolution for the site in Blackstaff Square.
- 1.5 However, immediately following the June decision, the Department asked that this decision be reversed and there is now a licensed trader operating again at this site. This caused some delay in the process of Designation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Based on the information presented the Committee is requested to consider each proposal in turn and to decide whether to:

1. approve a Designating Resolution to designate the whole street or part of the street (site/s), where it may allocate street trading pitches for Sites A-J. The Designating Resolution will include the operational date and may stipulate either:
 - only specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that may be sold or supplied; or

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- specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that are prohibited.
2. approve the variation of the Designating Resolution for sites K-N. The Designating Resolution will include the operational date and may stipulate either:
 - only specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that may be sold or supplied; or
 - specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that are prohibited.
 3. rescind your decision of 21st June regarding rescinding of the Designation of Blackstaff Square.
 4. decide not to proceed with any or all of the proposals.
- 2.2 In addition to making any Designating Resolution, Members may, having considered all comments, record any reasonable conditions that should be applied to a subsequent licence. For example, these may include hours of trade, days of trade, duration of licence, etc.
- 2.3 Members are reminded that once the sites become designated you will subsequently have to consider any applications that may be received for a Street Trading Licence on any of the sites.
- 2.4 At that time, you will assess the suitability and quality of the proposals and may decide to grant or refuse a licence within the requirements of the Act. Any Street Trading Licence granted may also be subject to reasonable conditions which can be used to control the commodities being sold, and potential nuisance, etc.
- 3.0 **Main Report**
- Key Issues**
- 3.1 The designation process involved seeking comments from interested parties, including relevant statutory bodies, through public advertisement and consultation.
- 3.2 The Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 requires the Council to ensure that each application is fairly and objectively assessed, that

all relevant factors are considered and, in doing so, the Council must consult with the:

- a) PSNI, and
- b) Department for Infrastructure - Roads.

3.3 The Council may also consult other persons as it considers appropriate. Such consultees may include:

- a) relevant Belfast City Council Departments;
- b) Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM);
- c) nearby Street Trading Licence holders who may be affected; and
- d) local residents, business and commercial premises in the vicinity of the site in respect of which the application has been received.

3.4 Subsequently, the Service has received responses to the applications from a variety of interested parties and individuals.

3.5 Members are advised that BCCM conducts its business within a determined geographical area of Belfast City Centre and is therefore responding to the proposals at locations within this boundary only.

3.6 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider each of the proposals in conjunction with any submissions received and make a decision on whether or not to designate or vary the sites.

3.7 Each site is listed separately from A to N and indicated with their specific site location.

3.8 Where appropriate, the commodities are also considered in addition to a synopsis of the comments received during the consultation period. Copies of all the responses are attached to this report.

3.9 Maps and photographs of each location will be presented to you at your meeting.

New Streets or Part Thereof

**Site A – Lisburn Road outside premises of Café Maud’s,
555 Lisburn Road**

3.10 The proposal is for ice-cream and non-alcoholic beverages. The site will operate during the day, from a refrigerated ice-cream cart operated by staff from Café Maud’s. The proposed

site is 1.5 metres in length, operating at the front corner of the premises nearest the side lane.

PSNI

3.11 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.12 The Department have advised that this part of the footway is quite narrow because of the location of a street light. They also state that further obstruction, in the form of a street trading pitch, would not be appropriate at this location.

Published 28-day Notice

3.13 No responses were received to the notice.

**Site B – Balmoral Road, situated outside the former B&Q Site
(on the left-hand side of the road)**

3.14 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a food trailer. The site will operate during the day.

PSNI

3.15 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.16 No objection.

Published 28-day Notice

3.17 No responses were received to the notice.

**Site C – Oldpark Road, in lay-by 45ft from the junction with
Hillview Road**

3.18 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a mobile catering unit. The site will operate during the day.

PSNI

3.19 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.20 No objection.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.21 No responses were received to the notice.

Site D – Gordon Street, at junction with Dunbar Street beside metal artwork (for night time trading)

- 3.22 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a hot food trailer. The site will operate during the night into the morning.

PSNI

- 3.23 The Police Service wishes to object to the application. It believes that a Street Trading Pitch here would provide a focus for concentrated groups when licensed premises close leading to disorder and violence.

DFI Roads

- 3.24 No objection.

Department for Communities Belfast Regeneration Directorate

- 3.25 The Department has advised they own the land at Gordon Street with the junction at Dunbar Street. They wish to offer no objection to the proposed designation of a trading pitch nor the commodities to be sold.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.26 No responses were received to the notice.

Site E – Bridge Street, in lay-by outside 12-16 Bridge Street (for night time trading)

- 3.27 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a hot food trailer. The site will operate during the night into the morning.

PSNI

- 3.28 The Police Service wishes to object to the application. They believe that a Street Trading Pitch here would provide a focus for concentrated groups when licensed premises close leading to disorder and violence.

DFI Roads

- 3.29 The Department has advised that this location is to be changed to a 24hr public hire taxi rank in the very near future. Therefore, no street trading will be allowed at this site.

BCCM

- 3.30 BCCM has no issue with the new designation for night time trading.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.31 No responses were received to the notice.

Site F – Donegall Street, in parking bay near the junction with Waring Street (for night time trading)

- 3.32 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a hot food trailer. The site will operate during the night into the morning.

PSNI

- 3.33 Police wish to object to the application. They believe that a Street Trading Pitch here would provide a focus for concentrated groups when licensed premises close leading to disorder and violence.

DFI Roads

- 3.34 The Department has advised that this part of the footway is too narrow to accommodate street trading because of street trees, etc.

Published 28 day Notice

- 3.35 No responses were received to the notice.

Site G – Cupar Way.

- 3.36 The proposal is for tourist souvenirs or similar commodities. The site will operate during the day.

PSNI

- 3.37 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.38 The Department has advised that this part of the footway is quite narrow because of the placement of street trees. They recommend that the street trading pitch would need to be away from these trees to provide a minimum 1.8m passing room for pedestrians.

Visit Belfast

- 3.39 Have stated that they believe the application needs further discussion with the communities. They also recommend that feedback would be required from Fáilte Feirste Thiar and Greater Shankill Partnership.
- 3.40 Following Visit Belfast's recommendation, we contacted both Fáilte Feirste Thiar and Greater Shankill Partnership. At the time of writing this report no response has yet been received.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.41 No responses were received to the notice.

Site H – The Arc, Titanic Quarter (5 sites) Hamilton Dock.

- 3.42 This area is managed by Titanic Quarter Limited. Any subsequent Street Trading Licence will be in agreement with them.
- 3.43 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities, gifts, crafts and souvenirs.

PSNI

- 3.44 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.45 No objection.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.46 No responses were received to the notice.

Site I - Titanic Quarter (4 sites) Titanic Plaza.

- 3.47 This area is currently managed by Titanic Quarter Limited. Any subsequent Street Trading Licence will be in agreement with them.

- 3.48 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities, gifts, confectionary and souvenirs.

PSNI

- 3.49 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.50 No objection.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.51 No responses were received to the notice.

Site J – Titanic Quarter (3 sites)

- 3.52 This area is currently managed by Titanic Quarter Limited. Any subsequent Street Trading Licence will be in agreement with them.

- 3.53 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities, gifts, confectionary and souvenirs.

PSNI

- 3.54 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.55 No objection.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.56 No responses were received to the notice.

Variation of Commodities and Services to be Provided

Site K – Lower Garfield Street at the junction with North Street.

- 3.57 The current designated site allows for the commodity to be determined but excludes the sale of hot food. The proposal is to allow for the sale of confectionary and hot food to include crepes, waffles, roasted nuts, sandwiches, rolls, paninis sausage rolls and hot pastries.

- 3.58 If Committee is minded to grant this variation, they may wish to limit the sale of the hot food to day time trade only.

PSNI

3.59 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.60 No objection.

BCCM

3.61 No issue with the proposed variation.

Published 28-day Notice

3.62 No responses were received to the notice.

Site L – Donegall Square North at front of City Hall

3.63 The current designated site is for the sale of ice-cream and hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages from an ice-cream tricycle. The proposal is to allow for the sale of confectionary and artisan hot food.

PSNI

3.64 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.65 No objection.

3.66 Officers checked with DFI Roads after receiving comments from the Council's Markets Unit at 3.82 below, the Department are not objecting to this proposal.

BCCM

3.67 They have advised they are opposed to the proposed variation to include confectionary and artisan hot food stating that Donegall Square is very well represented by businesses which already provide these and similar products. As a result, they consider that this area is very well serviced in the provision of the aforementioned commodities.

Visit Belfast

3.68 They would caution against this change as taking away from the general environment, particularly when there are now an abundance of cafes and restaurants in and around Donegal Square, including The Bobbin Café in City Hall.

Belfast City Council Facilities Management

- 3.69 Have concerns about extending the current arrangements of selling ice-cream and hot and cold beverages. Apart from potential litter issues they raised the following points:
- Detrimental to what is one of the key visitor attractions in Belfast.
 - Detrimental to a Grade A listed building.
 - Will clash with other activities which are allowed to take place on the cobbled area.
 - Restricts pedestrian access via the front gates.
 - May clash with the Spring & Christmas Markets.
 - Potential mixed reaction from Members, some might be positive but others will be negative.

Belfast City Council Markets Unit

- 3.70 The Unit wish to object to the variation. They consider that this extended offer will clash with the Spring and Christmas markets. Those traders, and others at events taking place within the City Hall grounds, are paying a high premium to trade at them and is therefore unfair.
- 3.71 They state there were concerns last year over the reputation of the market and the City Hall as the trader using this pitch did not trade in a professional manner. There were issues with waste and general cleanliness of his pitch and therefore his licence would need to be more strictly policed.
- 3.72 The Unit also point out that during the Continental Markets, traders in the chalets beyond the railings are not permitted to sell any form of hot food. This has been stipulated by DFI Roads when the Council sought agreement with them in relation to approvals.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.73 No responses were received to the notice.

Deferred Decisions

- 3.74 Committee is reminded that at its meetings of 16 April 2014 and 18 March 2015, the Licensing Committee had deferred consideration of the following two applications to vary the designation resolutions for sites at Castle Junction Kiosk and Castle Place (opposite Donegall Arcade) respectively, to provide for the sale of bus tour tickets, pending the outcome of a review which was being undertaken by the Council's

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Development Department into sightseeing coach provision in the City.

3.75 The outcome of that research had, on 14 October 2015, been presented to the Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

3.76 In light of that Committee's decision, the Licensing Committee agreed to initiate a new process in relation to those applications to vary the designating resolutions at sites in Castle Place (opposite Donegall Arcade) and the Castle Junction Kiosk. The Committee requested that the Department for Infrastructure, Driver & Vehicle Agency, be specifically consulted on these proposals.

Site M – Castle Junction Kiosk

3.77 The current designated site is for the sale of hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages, confectionery, ice-cream and cold food or similar commodities including the sale of theatre and event tickets. The proposal is to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets.

PSNI

3.78 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.79 No objection.

Department for Communities Belfast Regeneration Directorate

3.80 DfC own the Castle Junction Kiosk (run under licence by a private operator). They have no objection as long as there is no limitation to a single bus tour operator.

Department for Infrastructure Driver & Vehicle Agency

3.81 They have consulted with Passenger Transport Licensing and DVA Enforcement for their views and confirmed they have no issues with the proposal.

BCCM

3.82 They have advised that they are opposed to the proposed variation to include the sale of bus tour tickets at this location or any other mobile location within Belfast city centre. A detailed response is awaited.

Visit Belfast

- 3.83 They have advised that if approved, the tenant will be able to decide which operator they sell tickets for and that this will be a commercial decision.
- 3.84 Visit Belfast also consider this is an attractive kiosk and could work well for the sale of bus tickets. However, while relationships have improved between the two bus operators, they still have some concerns that introducing another sales outlet could cause issues amongst the street staff, with a risk that the area around the Kiosk could become unpleasant for visitors.
- 3.85 They have suggested that the Committee make a temporary provision to allow this variation of commodities for initially up to one year, with conduct around the kiosk monitored by all relevant agencies with a view to extension of the period, or termination, dependent on the results of the trial period.
- 3.86 Members are advised that any such temporary provision would be dealt with during the licensing process if you are minded to vary the designation.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.87 No responses were received to the notice.

Site N – Castle Place opposite Donegall Arcade

- 3.88 The current designated site allows for the commodity to be determined but excludes the sale of hot food and tour tickets. The proposal is to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets.

PSNI

- 3.89 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.90 No objection.

Department for Infrastructure Driver & Vehicle Agency

- 3.91 They have consulted with Passenger Transport Licensing and DVA Enforcement for their views and confirmed they have no issues with the proposal.

BCCM

- 3.92 They state they are opposed to the proposed variation to include the sale of bus tour tickets at this location or any other mobile location within Belfast city centre. A detailed response is awaited.

Visit Belfast

- 3.93 Visit Belfast states that this site is too close to the site at the bottom of Lombard Street, which already sells bus tour tickets, and, if granted, could cause issues between rival companies.
- 3.94 Visit Belfast's preference is for temporary approval to the Castle Junction Kiosk. If for any reason the Castle Junction Kiosk was not suitable, then this option would need to be piloted in the same way as the recommendation for the Castle Junction Kiosk.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.95 No responses were received to the notice.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.96 The cost of all notices is included in current revenue budgets. The required notice to confirm the designation will cost approximately £5,000 as our policy states that it must be placed in three newspapers for two consecutive weeks.

- 3.97 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no equality or good relations issues."

The Committee proceeded to consider the sites set out within the aforementioned report and agreed the following:

New Streets or Parts Thereof

Lisburn Road - Outside Café Maud's

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees not to designate the site on the Lisburn Road, outside Café Maud's, on the grounds that it would be permitting a permanent stall to operate directly against the frontage of a premises and on the basis of the comments which had been received from DFI Roads regarding the narrowness of the footway at that point.

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On a vote by show of hand thirteen Members voted for the proposal and one against and it was declared carried.

Balmoral Road - Outside the former B&Q Site (on left hand side of the road)

The Committee agreed to designate the above-mentioned site in Balmoral Road, as a place in respect of which it might grant a stationary Street Trading Licence for the sale during the day of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a food trailer.

Oldpark Road – In lay-by, 45 feet from the Junction with Hillview Road

The Committee agreed to designate the above-mentioned site in Oldpark Road, as a place in respect of which it might grant a stationary Street Trading Licence for the sale during the day of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a mobile catering unit.

Bridge Street – In Lay-by, Outside Nos. 12 – 16 Bridge Street

Donegall Street – In Parking Bay, Near the Junction with Waring Street

Gordon Street – At its Junction with Dunbar Street, beside Metal Artwork

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the designation of the above-mentioned sites in Bridge Street, Donegall Street and Gordon Street for the sale at night of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities to enable information to be provided in relation to:

- i. the location of those hot food stalls which were licensed currently to operate within the City centre:
- ii. other applications for the designation of sites for the sale at night of hot and cold food which had been considered by the Committee in the past five years and the outcome of those applications; and
- iii. the licensing of hot food stalls in other cities.

The Committee agreed also that a representative of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, which had objected to the sites being designated, be invited to attend the meeting at which the matter would next be considered.

Cupar Way

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the designation of the above-mentioned site in Cupar Way for the sale of tourist souvenirs to allow for responses to be received from Fáilte Feirste and the Greater Shankill Partnership and to seek the views of Coiste and Epic, both of which provided cultural tours in that area.

The Arc – Titanic Quarter - Hamilton Dock (5 Sites)

Titanic Quarter – Titanic Plaza (4 Sites)

Titanic Quarter (3 Sites)

The Committee agreed to designate the above-mentioned twelve sites within the Titanic Quarter as places in respect of which it might grant a stationary Street Trading Licence for the sale of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities, gifts, crafts and souvenirs.

Variation of the Commodities and Services to be Provided

Lower Garfield Street - At its Junction with North Street

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the designation of the above-mentioned site in Lower Garfield Street to enable the views of local retailers and the developer of the proposed Royal Exchange redevelopment project to be sought.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor Groves,

That the Committee agrees to vary the designating resolution for the above-mentioned site in Lower Garfield Street, to allow for the sale of confectionary and hot food, to include crepes, hot pastries, paninis, roasted nuts, rolls, sandwiches, sausage rolls and waffles.

On a vote by show of hand twelve Members voted for the amendment and two against and it was declared carried.

The amendment was thereupon put to the meeting as the substantive motion and passed.

Donegall Square North – At the Front of the City Hall

Moved by Councillor Craig,
Seconded by Councillor Dudgeon,

That the Committee agrees not to vary the designating resolution for the site in Donegall Square North, at the front of the City Hall, to allow for the sale of confectionary and artisan hot food, on the basis of the comments which had been received from the Council's Markets and Facilities Management Units and from Visit Belfast.

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On a vote by show of hand six Members voted for the proposal and eight against and it was declared lost.

On a recorded vote, nine Members voted for the proposal to vary the designating resolution for the site in Donegall Square North, at the front of the City Hall, to allow for the sale of confectionary and artisan hot food, and six against and it was declared carried.

| <u>For 9</u> | <u>Against 6</u> |
|--|--|
| Councillors Baker, Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Collins, Groves, Heading, McConville and McReynolds. | Alderman Spence (Chairperson); Aldermen L. Patterson; and Councillors Craig, Dudgeon, Hussey and Hutchinson. |

Castle Junction Kiosk

Castle Place – Opposite Donegall Arcade

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the variation of the designating resolutions for the above-mentioned sites in Castle Junction and Castle Place to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets to enable further information to be provided on the issues which had arisen previously around the sale of such tickets and on the outcome of the review which had been undertaken by the Development Department and which had, in October, 2015, been presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Blackstaff Square

The Committee agreed, at the request of the Department for Communities, to reverse its decision of 21st June to rescind the designating resolution for a stationary street trading site in Blackstaff Square, as recommended within paragraph 2.1.3 of the report, thereby permitting a licensed trader to operate on the site.

Non-Delegated Matters

Update on Premises Licensed to Provide Entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th October, it had agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on those premises within the City which were licensed to provide entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m. and on the Council's powers to manage their impact upon local communities.

The Building Control Manager reported that 502 venues currently held Entertainments Licences, over half of which were public houses/clubs and registered clubs. Of those 502 venues, forty-two were licensed to provide entertainment till 3.00 a.m. and fifteen till 2.00 a.m., some of which could operate beyond 1.00 a.m. only on certain nights of the week.

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He explained that, upon receipt of an application for extended hours, officers would meet with the applicant to assess the requirement and to discuss with them the measures which they would need to implement to minimise any adverse impact. He reminded the Committee that it had been mindful always of the impact which those premises which were licensed to operate till 2.00 a.m. or 3.00 a.m. might have on the surrounding area and that it had sought to introduce an additional level of control by attaching conditions, many of which had been suggested and agreed in advance with the applicant, aimed at minimising nuisance and disturbance. He provided examples of those conditions and pointed out that failure to adhere to them could result in legal proceedings being initiated against the applicant, licensee or manager. Convictions were then brought to the attention of the Committee as future applications were being considered. He added that the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had statutory powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2011 and the Noise Act 1996 to control noise from entertainment after 11.00 p.m. and referred all complaints to the Building Control Service to ensure that appropriate action was taken against any alleged offenders who held Entertainments Licences.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 12th December, 2017

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Councillors Armitage, Garrett, Hussey,
Hutchinson, Johnston, Magee, McAteer,
McDonough-Brown and Mullan.
- In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Carson and Dorrian.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th November 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 December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Quarter 2 - Finance Update

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the financial position of both the Planning and Licensing Committees, as at the end of the second quarter of the financial year. It was noted further that, as at 30th September, there had been a net over-spend of £132k, and the forecast year-end departmental position was an over-spend of £22k (1.5%) which had arisen from reductions in grant funding which related to Affordable Warmth and Regularisation applications.

Section 76 Update

The City Solicitor provided an update in relation to the ongoing Section 76 project. He advised that the project would establish a framework for negotiating and securing Developer Contributions as part of the planning application process (the "Developer Contributions Framework") and develop processes and procedures around the identification, monitoring and implementation of Planning Agreements, including those that secure Developer Contributions.

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He advised that the Council had powers under both the Planning Act and Strategic Planning Policy Statement to seek Developer Contributions and that the Planning Service had secured over £3 million of Developer Contributions since 2015. He highlighted that the Developer Contributions Framework (DCF) was currently being drafted and that Party Briefings and a Workshop would be scheduled in due course so that Members would have an opportunity to input into its approach, ahead of consideration by the Planning Committee and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

He provided an overview of the timeline for delivery of the draft DCF and emphasised the requirement for robust systems and procedures around the identification, monitoring and implementation of Planning Agreements, including those that secure Developer Contributions.

He advised that key tasks included:

- construction of a database to record and monitor Planning Agreements;
- development of financial processes;
- formation of governance arrangements for spending contributions; putting in place a mechanism for independent assessment of viability when Developer Contributions are challenged; and
- the publication of internal and external guidance on the Planning Agreement process.

During discussion, the City Solicitor advised further that consultation and engagement would be undertaken with stakeholders and communities, together with research into case law and city comparison studies, in the development of the Developer Contributions Framework.

Noted.

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, 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 November and 1st December, 2017.

Departmental Performance Update

(Councillor Hussey had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The Development Planning and Policy Manager tabled a report in relation to the departmental planning performance. He highlighted that the figures outlined were internally sourced and not official statistics from the Department for Infrastructure, and therefore, might be subject to change once the official statistics were subsequently released.

He provided a breakdown of the monthly performance up to 30 November, 2017 as follows:

Planning Applications

- 223 applications had been validated in November, 2017;
- 212 applications had been validated in October, 2017; and
- 1734 applications had been validated since 1st April, 2017.

Planning Decisions

- 201 decisions had been issued in November, 2017;
- 304 decisions had been issued in October, 2017;
- 90% approval rate; and
- 98% decisions had been issued under delegated authority.

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 894 live applications were in the system at end of November, 2017;
and
- 7 legacy applications were outstanding.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager highlighted that there were 26 live major planning applications. This included a decision on one major application issued in November and it was within the 30 week target (17 weeks). Ten had been approved by Committee but were awaiting the execution of a Section 76 agreement. Six applications were currently within the 30-week target for processing applications and would be brought for Committee consideration at a future date.

He pointed out that, in relation to Local Applications, there had also been an increase in the numbers of decisions issued in the past 3 months which demonstrated that there was a positive trend in accelerating decision making for local applications. He advised that the number of applications received last month exceeded the number of decisions issued and the Department would continue to monitor this to ensure that any backlog would not increase.

He informed the Committee that, up to 31st October 2017, the latest figures available from Department for Infrastructure showed that 65% of enforcement cases were concluded within the target of 39 weeks, 5% below the statutory target. However, recent figures indicated that the Department should achieve enforcement targets going forward.

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He advised that future reports would contain more detailed information in relation to factors affecting performance, and continuous improvement measures.

Noted

(Councillor Hussey returned to the Committee table at this point.)

Notice of Entry

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from Northern Ireland Water which related to a Notice of Intended Entry at 263 – 285 Beersbridge Road.

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that item 9). Request for Pre-determination hearing for LA04/2015/0674/F and LA04/2015/0672/DCA for 13-23 Clarence Street and 26-28 Linenhall Street (including Clarence Gallery), had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Restricted Items

The Information contained in the following two 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 this item as, due to the nature of the item, 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.

Additional Item - Operating Principles and Development Management Recommendations

Earlier in closed session, with the permission of the Chairperson, the Chief Executive provided the Committee with an update on the evaluation of the Planning function. She tabled documents in relation to the future operating principles and development management recommendations for the service. The Members had given general approval to the direction and purpose of the review and noted that they would have the opportunity, in January, 2018, to further consider the documents, in conjunction with a performance report. The Committee also noted that a review of the Operating Protocol would be added to the Summary of Development Management Recommendations document.

The Committee noted:

- the Development Management Recommendations in relation to improvements in the Planning Service;
- the 10 Operating Principles; and

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- that a workshop on the development of the Planning Department and its performance would be scheduled in due course.

Planning Portal Update

The Committee was provided with an update on the outcome of the discovery process, and the ongoing business case preparation process, which was being undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure in association with all 11 Councils on the replacement of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal.

It was reported that officers from both Planning and Digital Services had been involved in the Discovery Exercise which had just been completed and they would continue to be involved in the next phase of Business Case Preparation by PA Consulting. It was confirmed that indicative costings had now been provided and a market sounding exercise was currently underway with planning portal providers.

The Members were advised that the business case was due to be completed by the end of February, 2018 and a decision regarding the development of a new regional Planning Portal was likely to be required in March, 2018.

The Committee was informed that the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) had scheduled a seminar, on 26th January, 2018, to highlight key issues of the Planning Portal and it was open to all Members of the Planning Committee to attend.

After discussion, the Committee noted the update which had been provided and agreed that all Planning Committee Members be invited to attend the NILGA Seminar, and authorised the payment of the associated travel allowances.

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)

LA04/2017/0046/F and 0044/DCA - 22 apartments with associated landscaping, access, car parking, construction of new gable wall and all associated demolitions and site works at 140 and 142 Malone Avenue and the rear of 18 Windsor Avenue

The case officer provided an overview of the proposal for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of 22 apartments with associated landscaping, car parking and a new vehicular access to Malone Avenue along with the construction of a new gable wall to the rear of 18 Windsor Avenue. She advised that there was an associated Conservation Area consent application for the demolition works under reference LA04/2017/0044/DCA.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, 10 additional letters of objection had been received, resulting in a total of 155.

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This included a letter from Malone Residents' Association which outlined concerns with the planning application proceeding to the Committee meeting, and a letter of opposition received from Paula Bradshaw MLA. She advised that the following points of objection had been raised in relation to the proposal:

- It would be a gross overdevelopment;
- The proposal did not respect the architectural style, scale, existing densities or pattern of development;
- It would cause harm to the residential amenity;
- Issues regarding parking, bin storage, access for deliveries, maintenance, emergency vehicles had not been addressed;
- Previous planning permission for the replacement Church should not set a precedent for approval of a residential scheme of a similar scale;
- The site could comfortably accommodate pairs of semi-detached houses.
- There had been a lack of transparency, in that details of meetings with the applicant had not been made public via the planning portal, resulting in grave concerns that the applicant might have had undue influence on the process;
- Disregard for process and undue haste, in that the recommendation had been formed before the neighbourhood consultation period had ended, with an application going before the Planning Committee a mere 20 working days after the original neighbour notification letters had been issued;
- Contravention of clear and established planning policy which the planning officer had chosen to disregard;
- No site on Malone Avenue has had a building of this height, width or depth;
- Development was not consistent with the surrounding mass, scale or pattern of development;
- Previous planning approvals required the development to step down to the east and to the west to match exactly the ridge height of the adjacent buildings and building lines – this had been completely disregarded;
- It would add to existing parking issues in Malone Avenue, as well as adding to the existing traffic issues in the Lisburn Road area; and
- Concern over the amount of apartment blocks which would change the atmosphere for those living in Malone Avenue.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack, and highlighted that the office meeting referred to in the objectors' correspondence had been conducted in an open and transparent manner.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. J. Stinson, representing Lower Malone Residents Association, in objection to the application. He advised that the site was within the Malone Conservation Area and suggested that the scale and density of

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the proposal would be detrimental to the area, especially the 12 semi-detached houses situated opposite the proposed development. He indicated that residents had raised numerous objections and had highlighted the breaches in Planning Policy. He suggested that the development proposed a ridge line which would be 4 metres higher than the adjacent and facing properties and, if approved, would dwarf the existing dwellings. He indicated that the previous planning history on the site had respected the ridge height of the existing properties. He suggested that the Malone Avenue had a consistent building line, however, the development would be out of sync with the surrounding buildings, sitting 1 metre forward from the exiting building line. He also suggested that the proposal was contrary to PPS 7 – QD1, in that it was not consistent with the prevailing character or surrounding environment. He advised that residents were concerned in relation to the speed of which the application had been processed and suggested that the application should be refused.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Craig who outlined a range of support to the case officer's recommendation for approval. He suggested that the proposal would benefit the residents of South Belfast. He advised that the development would help fund a new church building, at an alternative site, which was required due to growth of the congregation. He suggested that the applicant planned to redevelop a derelict art-deco building on the Lisburn Road, therefore, would help protect Belfast's Built Heritage.

The Committee received representation from Mr. T. Stokes, agent, and Mr. J. McCormick, applicant. Mr. Stokes suggested that the development was intrinsically linked to the financing and delivery of the New Windsor Baptist Church and would assist the future provision of a wide range of community services and projects at the former Majestic Cinema Site on the Lisburn Road, which had received Planning approval in August. He advised that the Church had grown significantly, along with the services it provided, including cross community initiatives. He pointed out the previous planning approval on the site for a larger church remained live, however, the church had continued to expand and required a larger property to suit its needs. He advised that a community consultation meeting had taken place on 17th November, 2016, together with a pre application discussions with the Planning Department. He suggested that the design had been amended accordingly, such as a reduction in size, the change to the building line and stepping down of the apartment block. In relation to the material contribution of the existing church, he stated that demolition consent had already been granted and there had been no change to Planning Policy since then. He suggested that the proposal would remove the unsightly portable cabin and unattractive views of the rundown building to the rear of the site and would improve the Conservation Area. In relation to the objector's comments, he suggested that the design was in line with the character of the area, as the prevailing character of the area was of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) properties and apartment conversions. He also suggested that the proposal was situated in a highly sustainable location on a brownfield site and the proposal was sympathetic of the Malone Conservation Area. He stated that there had been no objections from statutory consultees and endorsed the Planners recommendation to approve the application.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor McAteer and
Seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the Malone Conservation Area, the height of the proposal and impact on local residents, agrees to defer consideration of the applications to permit a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

On a vote by show of hands nine Members voted for the proposal and none against and it was declared carried.

LA04/2017/0465/F - 3 townhouses, 6 detached, 16 semi-detached dwellings, restoration works to the external fabric of the Chapel of the Resurrection on lands accessed via 578 Antrim Road (West Side) between Innisfayle and Waterloo Parks Belfast. Chapel of Resurrection to centre of site

The case officer outlined the proposal and advised the Committee that an application for Listed Building Consent had also been submitted alongside this full application (LA04/2017/0492/LBC).

She confirmed that the Church on the site would be repaired and weather proofed by the applicant but a new Planning Application would be required for its future usage.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. M. O'Reilly, representing residents. He outlined the following points of objection to the application.

- The density of the proposal was not reflective of the surrounding area and sought to introduce a development of a significantly higher density than that of the receiving environment;
- The site plots were not comparable with that of the existing area;
- The proposal was contrary to PPS7 - LC1;
- The Committee was not bound by previous decisions that had been made by the Planning Section of the Department of Environment;
- In relation to drawing 68 (stamped 6th July, 2017) on the Planning Portal – the separation distances of plot 16 and 17, outlined in the drawing, were incorrect, and fell short of the direction as outlined in Creating Places Design Guidance;
- The site levels were incorrect and topographical levels had not been reflected in the layout or the case officer's report;
- No information seemed available on the Planning Portal in relation to cross sections and levels surrounding the relationship between plot 16 and 17 and the existing property;
- The dominant height of the proposal would cause overlooking and loss of light;

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- Drawing 68A, as outlined in the case officer's report, was not available on the Planning Portal; and
- Suggested that the application should be deferred so that clarity could be given on the issues he had raised.

The Committee received representation from Mr. T. Brownlie, Mr. M. Nugent, and Mr. J. Casey, representing the applicant. In relation to the objector's comments, they pointed out that the development was not higher in density than the surrounding area and was zoned for housing in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan. They confirmed that previous planning permission had been granted for 33 dwelling on the site and this application proposed 25 housing units with a better layout. They suggested that the application had been correctly assessed by the case officer under PPS 7. In relation to plot size, they stated that there was a variation in size and range of house types, all within PPS 7 requirements and planning policy. They suggested that all relevant drawings had been submitted and explained that as the site rises in places, the boundary distances varied and there were also a range of heights. They suggested that the proposal was not dominant, would not overlook or damage the existing properties, would develop a derelict site and also protect a grade 1 listed building for future development.

During discussion the case officer confirmed the variation in ground levels and advised that all drawings should be accessible on the Planning Portal. She informed the Committee that after the Impact Assessment, amendments to the design had been made in relation to the rear of the existing buildings. She also confirmed that the maintenance of foliage would be subject to condition.

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.

LA04/2016/2531/F - 47 dwelling units of 7 townhouses, 40 apartments, landscaping, car parking and all associated site works including change of use of 163 Ormeau Road from offices to apartments on Lands at 163 Ormeau Road

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

The case officer advised that the site was currently in use as construction company offices which had an existing two storey building located parallel to Rugby Avenue and a single storey building and Portable Cabin located parallel to the Ormeau Road.

During discussion the case officer advised the retention of the wall was not protected, so could not be imposed as a condition of the recommended planning approval, however, she would submit the remarks to the developer for consideration regarding the potential reuse of the brick.

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.

LA04/2017/0431/F - 76 semi-detached houses and associated site works on lands to the south of Kitchener Drive, north of 2-30 (evens) Frenchpark Street and west of 59-149 (odds) Donegall Avenue

The case officer outlined the application for the residential development.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Craig who suggested that the proposal would benefit the area and provide family homes. He suggested that the development would start the rebirth of the area and attract families to settle in the area.

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.

(The Meeting adjourned for 10 minutes at this point)

LA04/2017/2494/F - House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) at 11 College Place North

The case officer outlined the proposal for the conversion of a dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

The case officer explained that, after assessment, the application had been recommended for refusal on the grounds that the proposal would result in breach of the 10% threshold of the street becoming HMO use, contrary to Policy HMO 5 of the House in Multiple Occupation Subject Plan, 2015.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/0235/F - Demolition of existing office building for residential development of 53 units (18 apartments, 21 detached, 14 semi-detached) on lands at Rosepark House, Upper Newtownards Road

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

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.

LA04/2017/1752/F - Change of use from dwelling to House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) at 44 Stranmillis Road

The case officer outlined the proposal for the conversion of a dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

The case officer explained that, after assessment, the application had been recommended for refusal on the following grounds:

- The proposal was contrary to Policy HMO 1 and HMO 2 of the HMO Subject Plan for Belfast City Council Area 2015 in that the 30% limit for HMO's within the Stranmillis HMO Policy Area (Designation HMO 2/19) had already been exceeded. Approval of this proposal would therefore be contrary to policy as it would contribute to an unacceptable concentration and proliferation of HMO use in the area; and
- The proposal was contrary to Policy HMO 6 of the HMO Subject Plan for Belfast City Council Area 2015, in that it was within a HMO Policy Area and would exceed 4 bedrooms.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/1779/F - Reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing Parochial Hall and boxing club with single storey side extension, single storey internal extension and change of use from Parochial Hall, Community Hall and Boxing Club to crèche (sure start), Youth Club, Boxing Club, Man Shed Initiative Scheme, community hub services and a multi-purpose hall for hire to the local community at Sacred Heart Parochial Hall, 11-13 Gracehill Court

The case officer provided an overview of the aforementioned application.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an interest in the application.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/2050/F - Revisions to previously approved signalised access to Colin Park on lands south and west of Dairy Farm Complex, Stewartstown Road

The Case officer advised that an amendment to the access road had been approved under planning application LA04/2016/0430/F which was for the provision of a new transport hub building with a bus turning area and signalised access to site.

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She highlighted that this application consisted of revisions to the previously approved signalised access to Colin Park by removing the left turn island and lane on the southbound approach when travelling along the Stewartstown Road.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

Chairperson