

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

16th August, 2023

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 18th August, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (e) Asset Management (Pages 1 - 20)
- (f) Update on The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) (Pages 21 - 24)
- (g) Update on Belfast 2024 (Pages 25 - 58)
- (h) Sponsorship and Advertising – Income Generation Pilot (Pages 59 - 116)

4. Governance

- (a) Appointment of Panel Members for the Recruitment of Independent Members to the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (Pages 117 - 122)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (b) Update on Contracts (Pages 123 - 130)

9. Operational Issues

- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 131 - 136)

10. Issues Raised in Advance by Members

- (b) Data Protection (Councillor Beattie to raise)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Appointment of Panel Members for the Recruitment of Independent Members to the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council is required, under Part 3 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to establish the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) the four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs).
1.2	PCSPs are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Under the Act, the Council is obliged to establish a (D)PCSP structure for Belfast. Independent Members of the PCSPs and DPCSPs are appointed by the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), who have overall responsibility for the process, from nominations made by the Council.
1.3	The process to nominate and appoint Independent Members to a PCSP or DPCSP consists of 3 stages. The first stage is an eligibility sift by the NIPB. The second stage is undertaken

1.4	<p>by the Council with support from its internal Human Resources and an external HR Service Provider. The third stage requires the NIPB to appoint from the Council's deemed appointable pool of candidates.</p> <p>The NIPB is currently aiming to have the new Independent Members appointed for the PCSP/DPCSPs reconstitution target date of 1st June, 2024.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Establish a Panel, from existing (D)PCSP Elected Members, comprising at least 2 and up to 4 Councillors, including a Chairperson, who will meet to shortlist and interview (D)PCSP candidates.
2.2	Nominate a Reserve Panel Member for each of the aforementioned nominated Panel Members.
2.3	Ensure that the panel is broadly representative in terms of gender and community background.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The existing Belfast (D)PCSP structures will continue to function until the reconstitution date the target date of which is currently 1st June, 2024. The current Members will hold office until the day before the reconstitution date.</p>
3.2	As part of this reconstitution process, the Joint Committee is required to conduct a recruitment process for the recruitment of Independent Members to the (D)PCSPs. This process is currently at Stage 2 which involves the shortlisting and interviewing of potential candidates.
3.3	The Council, with support from its internal Human Resources and an external HR Service Provider appointed by the NIPB, is responsible for the second stage of the process which is to shortlist and interview applicants against the published criteria.
3.4	An Impartial Assessor will oversee a sample of the process and an Independent Panel Member will be present at every stage of the shortlisting and interviewing stages.

3.5	To enable this process to move forward, the NIPB has requested that the Council nominates a Panel, from existing (D)PCSP Elected Members, comprising of at least 2, and up to 4 Councillors, including a Chairperson, who will meet to shortlist and interview applicants.
3.6	To ensure consistency and because of the possibility of overlap in membership, it is recommended that the same Panel should be involved in selecting Independent Members for the PCSP and the four DPCSPs.
3.7	The Panel should remain the same throughout the process, unless extraordinary circumstances requires that a substitution is made. However, a Reserve Panel Member should also be nominated for each of the aforementioned nominated Panel Members. If a conflict/extraordinary circumstance is identified the Panel Member will stand down from the process and the Reserve Panel Member will take over and complete the process.
3.8	Furthermore, the Council should seek to ensure that the Panel is representative in terms of gender and community background.
3.9	The Panel along with an Independent Panel Member appointed by the NIPB, will shortlist and interview the Independent (D)PCSP candidates.
3.10	The Panel including the Reserve Panel Members will be required to undertake a half day training session during the month of October.
3.11	It is anticipated, based on previous recruitment exercises, that 2 days of shortlisting and 8-10 days of interviews will be required. All of which will be held during normal working hours with the shortlisting and interviews expected to take place during October/November.
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.12	Panel Members will be entitled to receive reasonable travel expenses at 45p per mile. The NIPB has confirmed that there is no scope in the budget to cover any other costs of attending training or shortlisting/interviews.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.13	The Code of Practice for the Appointment of Independent Members states that councils should seek to ensure that the Panel is representative in terms of gender and community background.
3.14	The NIPB has overall responsibility for the recruitment of Independent Members and they will appoint an Independent Assessor to oversee the shortlisting and interviewing process by local Councils.
3.15	Councils are only required to shortlist and interview to achieve a pool of appointable candidates which is normally twice the number of Independent Members required. The NIPB will make the final decisions on which candidates will be offered appointment and in making those decisions will strive to ensure Independent Members are appointed to reflect the community in Belfast.
4.0	Document Attached
	List of current Belfast (D)PCSP Members

**Membership of the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs
Effective from 21st July 2023**

Belfast PCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Donal Lyons <i>SDLP</i> (Chair)	John MacVicar (Vice-Chair)	Chief Superintendent Darrin Jones, PSNI
Cllr. Conor Maskey <i>SF</i> (North)	Michael Boyle	Pauline Smart, EA
Cllr. Tracy Kelly <i>DUP</i> (South)	Mary Lambe	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Cllr. Fiona McAteer <i>Alliance</i> (East)	Vincent Mogeey	Aengus Hannaway, NIHE
Cllr. Claire Canavan <i>SF</i> (West)	Paula Quigley	Mark Cushnahan, NIFRS
Cllr. JJ Magee <i>SF</i>	Norma Shearer	Emer Loughran, PBNI
Cllr. Caoimhín McCann <i>SF</i>	Michael Shields	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Cllr. Emmet McDonough-Brown <i>Alliance</i>	Gordie Walker	
Cllr. Ian McLaughlin <i>DUP</i>		

North Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Conor Maskey <i>SF</i> (Chair)	Grace Peacock (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Allister Hagan, PSNI
Alderman Dean McCullough <i>DUP</i>	Thomas Cheevers	Mark McBride, EA
Cllr. Fred Cobain <i>DUP</i>	Bernard McClure	vacant, H&SCT – Bryan Nelson
Cllr. Anthony Flynn <i>Green</i>	Ciaran Shannon	Gerard Flynn, NIHE
Cllr. JJ Magee <i>SF</i>	Vacant	David Mc Comiskey, NIFRS
Cllr. Sam Nelson <i>Alliance</i>		Claire Houston/Jacqueline Nicolson, PBNI
		Dermot Magorrian, YJA

South Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Tracy Kelly <i>DUP</i> (Chair)	Richard Kennedy (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Finola Dornan, PSNI
Cllr. Pádraig Donnelly <i>SF</i>	Raied Al-Wazzan	Anita Duff, EA
Cllr. John Gormley <i>SF</i>	Catherine Leonard	Vacant H&SCT – Bryan Nelson
Cllr. Donal Lyons <i>SDLP</i>	Thérèse McCartney	Paul Mc Combe, NIHE
Cllr. Micky Murray <i>Alliance</i>	Bob Stoker	John Hegarty, NIFRS
Cllr. Geraldine McAteer <i>SF</i>		Liz Walker, PBNI
		Harry Bradley, YJA

East Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Fiona McAteer <i>Alliance</i> (Chair)	Gareth Wright (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Rosie Thompson, PSNI
Cllr. Séamas de Fáoite <i>SDLP</i>	Amy Gillen-Ashe	Mark McBride, EA
Cllr. Pádraig Donnelly <i>SF</i>	Lisa McMaster	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Cllr. Davy Douglas <i>DUP</i>	Janet Watson	Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Cllr. John Gormley <i>SF</i>	Vacant	John Hegarty, NIFRS
Cllr. Andrew McCormick <i>DUP</i>		Clare Osborne, PBNI
		Dermot Magorrian, YJA

West Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Claire Canavan <i>SF</i> (Chair)	Michael O’Hara (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Peter Brannigan, PSNI
Alderman Jim Rodgers <i>UUP</i>	Michael George	Pauline Smart/Paddy Gallagher, EA
Cllr. David Bell <i>Alliance</i>	Paul McDonnell	Paul O’Neill, H&SCT
Cllr. Micheal Donnelly <i>SF</i>	Ewan Suttie	Margaret Marley, Paddy Kelly, NIHE
Cllr. Caoimhín McCann <i>SF</i>	Vacant	David Mc Comiskey, NIFRS
Cllr. Nicola Verner <i>DUP</i>		Nicola Bradshaw, PBNI
		Harry Bradley, YJA

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Subject:	Update on Contracts
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek approval from the Committee for tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000 <p>and to ask the Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note contract modifications to contract term and retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs)
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. approve the public advertisement of tenders, as per Standing Order 37a, detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1); ii. approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2); iii. approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3); and

	iv. note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4)
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states that Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender
3.2	Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	<p>The following STAs are being submitted for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a contract for up to £80,000, for up to 2 months, awarded to Forge Leisure, for supply, delivery and installation of 3 Pool Covers at Shankill Leisure Centre and Grove Wellbeing Centre. The existing pool covers and associated equipment were supplied and installed by Forge Leisure. The repairs are proprietary and the replacement parts will have to be manufactured by Forge Leisure to interface with the remaining parts of the system previously installed by them. • A contract for up to £100,000, for up to 10 years, awarded to Precia Molen Ltd for the provision of maintenance and servicing of the weighbridge system at Dargan Road waste transfer station. This service can only be carried out by the supplier/ OEM of the weighbridges, Precia Molen Ltd who has exclusive access to associated software and OEM parts associated with the asset as well as suitably qualified and experienced engineers to conduct the testing, calibration and updates required. • A contract for up to £33,600, for up to 3 years, awarded to VU.CITY for the provision of an accurate digital 3D model of the Belfast City. There is no other supplier that can offer this solution without significant duplication of resources, costs and time to build the Belfast data layers. VU.CITY already has a significant portion of city mapped, including 262,835 trees, accurate to height & canopy as well as 55,594 buildings.

3.5

The following retrospective STAs were awarded:

- A contract for up to £135,000, for up to 3 years, awarded to Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), for the annual engagement of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), the professional body for local taxation, benefits and valuation. Specialist advice on rating matters including a review of the Council's Assessments in the Valuation List, advice on rate implications of investment projects.
- Contracts for up to £76,477, for up to 9 months, awarded to Hays Recruitment, for the requirement for a Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing and Contracts). The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing and Contracts) within the contractually agreed time period.

Modification to Contract

3.6

The following Contract Terms were modified:

- Up to an additional 6 months and up to an additional £65,000, for Contract T1856 - Provision of a facilities management service at the Mary Peters Track, awarded to Athletics NI. Contract extension required to allow sufficient time for the Council to explore all possible options for the management of the site.
- Up to an additional 6 months and up to an additional £5,000, for Contract T1892 Provision of play equipment inspections at Belfast City Council sites awarded to Play Services Ireland. Due to ongoing work in reviewing the scope and additional inspection work required under this contract additional time is required to finalise the Specification and associated tender documents.

3.7

Off Street Parking Enforcement – Agency Agreement with DfI

- An extension of the current Agency Agreement with DfI is required to ensure continuity of service for the provision of off street parking enforcement. The service delivery by DfI, using NSL as their service provider, provides enforcement of parking through deployment of Traffic Attendants, penalty charge notice processing and cash collection / pay and display machine maintenance.

	<p>The existing agreement is due to end on 31st October 2023 with an extension required to 31st March 2024 to ensure continuity of service whilst the procurement process is concluded. The target cost schedule, which was agreed for the existing Agreement will continue to function as the contract costs, but we may be subject to increased costs for Traffic Attendants as Dfl are negotiation with NSL regarding a pay review.</p> <p>The Council has been acting as procurement lead as part of a consortium of 8 local councils via a joint procurement exercise. A Writ has been received preventing the award of the new contract. Legal Services are now progressing with seeking an opinion from Counsel as to the merits of BCC's position with a view to potentially lodging an application with the court to lift the suspension as soon as possible which would allow BCC to proceed with award. It is hoped this might be conclude in the coming months; however should this process take longer there is agreement with Dfl to extend the Agreement further until the matter is resolved.</p>
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.8	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.9	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Table 1 - Competitive Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 - Single Tender Actions</p> <p>Table 3 - Modification to Contract</p> <p>Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions</p>

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
To provide a catering service in Malone House	Up to 5 years	Up to estimated annual gross revenue of £435,000 for the contractor which a minimum 5% commission will be payable to Belfast City Council.	J Greer	The current catering contract (under an STA) is due to terminate on 28th Feb 2024. A new contract is required to effectively service the venues to ensure booked events are suitably catered for, to provide a public service and to ensure best use of Council assets.
To provide a catering service in Belfast Castle	Up to 5 years	Up to estimated annual gross revenue of £745,000 for the contractor (based on pre-Covid figures). Of which a minimum 5% commission will be payable to Belfast City Council.	J Greer	The current retail catering contract (STA) is due to terminate on 20th February 2024. A new contract is required to effectively service the venue to ensure booked events are suitably catered for, to provide a public service and to ensure best use of Council assets.
Supplier required to complete energy audits of four high use Council buildings – City Hall, Cecil Ward, Adelaide and Duncrue *Previously approval June 23 for £50k but revised total now £85k	6 months Initially	Up to £85,000	J Tully	Findings to inform next steps on energy reduction
Provision of playground / muga / outdoor gym equipment independent inspections on BCC sites	Up to 4 years	Up to £80,000	D Sales	All playground, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms need to be independently inspected on an annual basis; the reports also direct the playground Improvement Programme each year

Appendix 1

AutoDesk Software licenses & support, to include bi-annual technology updates *Previous approved June 2023 for £96,000 but has now been reviewed £105,000	Up to 3 years	Up to £105,000	P Gribben	AutoDesk software is licensed on an annual subscription basis meaning the current AutoDesk software in use by BCC will no longer be available after 30.11.2023 without a new contract. The software is currently in use by Facilities Management, Building Control, Parks Landscape and the Project Management Unit
Provision of insurance brokerage services	Up to 2 years	Up to £4.6m. This includes insurance premiums of £2.2m p.a and broker fees – typically 3.5%/ up to £80k p.a.	T Wallace	The current brokerage services contract expires on the 31 October 2023 and a new supplier is required to retender the council's insurance policies which are renewable in April 24.
Managed Print Service. Leased printers and a most effective 'cost per copy' contract	Up to 6 years	Up to £700,000	P Gribben	The Council printer fleet is very old and the majority cannot be fixed and supplies are expensive.
Appointment of a procurement advisor to deliver competitive dialogue procurements and financial due diligence	Up to 12 months	Up to £150,000	C Reynolds/ A Ferguson	To assist with addressing sustained housing demand from across the city and unlock regeneration potential across a number of strategic city centre sites. This will be a complex and high-profile process that could be subject to challenges.
Print of City Matters magazine	Up to 4 years	Up to £300,000	L Caldwell	Print contractor is required to print our residents' magazine
Tender for the Collection, Treatment and Recycling of Mattresses	Up to 4 years	Up to £400,000	C Matthews	The current contract is coming to an end and a new procurement process is required to ensure continuity of service
Provision of kerbside collections & treatment services for recyclable materials	Up to 7 years	Up to £19m	C Matthews	The current contract is coming to an end and a new procurement process is required to ensure continuity of service

Tender for facilitation and engagement services through a managed service framework to support development of a Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme	Up to 6 months	Up to £50,000	J Greer	Services will support and inform the development of a phased, market-led investment programme to support and enhance tourism products and capacity in local neighbourhoods across the city
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Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Supply, Delivery & Installation of 3 Pool Covers at Shankill Leisure Centre & Grove Wellbeing Centre	Up to 2 months	Up to £80,000	S Grimes	The existing Pool Covers & associated equipment were supplied and installed by Forge Leisure. The repairs are proprietary, and the replacement parts will have to be manufactured by Forge Leisure to interface with the remaining parts of the system previously installed by them	Forge Leisure
Provision of maintenance and servicing of the weighbridge system at Dargan Road waste transfer station	Up to 10 years	Up to £100,000	C Matthews	This service can only be carried out by the supplier/ OEM of the weighbridges, Precia Molen Ltd who has exclusive access to associated software and OEM parts associated with the asset as well as suitably qualified and experienced engineers to conduct the testing, calibration and updates required.	Precia Molen Ltd
The Provision of an accurate digital 3D model of the Belfast City	Up to 3 years	Up to £33,600	P Gribben	There is no other supplier that can offer this solution without significant duplication of resources, costs and time to build the Belfast data layers. VU.CITY already has a significant portion of city mapped, including 262,835 trees, accurate to height & canopy as well as 55,594 buildings.	VU.CITY

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T1856 - Provision of a facilities management service at the Mary Peters Track	Up to 5 years	Additional 6 months & £65,000	D Sales	Contract extension required to allow sufficient time for Council to explore all possible options for the management of the site.	Athletics NI
T1892 Provision of play equipment inspections at Belfast City Council sites	Up to 5 years	Additional 3 months & £5,000	D Sales	Due to ongoing work in reviewing the scope and additional inspection work required under this contract additional time is required to finalise the Specification and associated tender documents	Play Services Ireland

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Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Annual engagement of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), the professional body for local taxation, benefits and valuation	Up to 3 years	Up to £135,000	T Wallace	Specialist advice on rating matters including a review of the Council's Assessments in the Valuation List, advice on rate implications of investment projects	Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)
Requirement for a Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing & Contracts)	Up to 9 months	Up to £76,476.11	N Largey	The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing & Contracts) within the contractually agreed time period.	Hays Recruitment

Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum

Thursday 10th August 2023

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Christina Black (*Chair*)
Councillor Séamas de Faoite
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Brian Smyth
Councillor Sarah Bunting

Apologies: Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officers:

Sharon McNicholl Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy (for Item 1)
Shauna Murtagh, Physical Programmes Portfolio Manager (for Item 1)
Cathy Reynolds, Director City Regeneration & Development (for Item 3)
John Greer, Director of Economic Development (for Item 4)
Lesley Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager, Tourism and Culture (for Item 4)
Erika Clark, Programme Manager (for Item 4)
Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services (for Item 6 & 7)
Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources (for Item 7)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Peace Plus

The Director of City & Organisational Strategy provided an update on the proposed approach for the development of applications for the PEACEPLUS Programme, specifically for the opening of the calls under Theme 1.1 and Theme 1.4. Members noted the proposed approach as previously agreed by SP&R committee, the challenges around the timeframes involved and the key next steps. There was detailed discussion around the proposed projects presented and it was highlighted by a Member that consideration should be given where possible to potential projects on a city wide basis. In relation to a number of queries raised by Members on specific project proposals the Physical Programmes Portfolio Manager provided clarity. The feedback provided by Members to be further considered and incorporated into the final report presented to August SP&R Committee.

Members also discussed potential requests for support under Theme 1.4 which were noted. The Director advised that discussions remained ongoing with SEUPB in relation to the implications should the Council be requested to act as delivery agent and/or provide letters of support for projects and an update will be included in the report to August SP&R committee.

2. Finance Update

The Director of Finance presented the Quarter 1 financial outturn for 2023/24 and advised a report with the detail discussed will be brought to August SP&R outlining the Quarter 1 financial position for the Council.

The Director also outlined the timeframe for the setting of the district rate for 2024/25 and highlighted the pre existing cost pressures and challenges that will need to be considered as part of the process. Member Workshops in order to begin the process of agreeing priorities will commence in September/October following consideration of the Corporate Planning process for 2024-2028 at August SP&R committee. It was agreed a copy of the information presented in relation to the rate setting process for 2024/25 will be circulated to Party Group Leaders.

In relation to a query raised by a Member in relation to the 2023/24 pay rise clarity was provided by the Director of Human Resources and Members noted the ongoing Trade Union consultation.

3. Strategic Site Assessments Phase 2

The Director City Regeneration and Development provided an update on the work being undertaken as part of Phase 2 of the Strategic Site Assessments (SSA). She advised that an extensive cross public sector mapping exercise had been carried out to identify, map and assess opportunities that may have housing led regeneration potential across publicly owned land. Members were presented with some examples of BCC assets, however the Director stressed that these would require further investigative work in terms of deliverability and planning etc. The composite list of potential sites mapped by partners across the city will be shared with Party Group Leaders once finalised and Members to feedback any initial comments/queries with the Director. The City solicitor stressed to Members the highly confidential nature of the information contained within the composite list and that it is

imperative that none of the information is for onward circulation. This will be included in the correspondence that will accompany the list when circulated. An update will then be brought to committee(s) in the near future as this work progresses.

The Director advised a Strategic Site Assessments Phase 1 report would be presented to September SP&R Committee for Members consideration. This will include an update on the institutional investors/strategic development partners expression of interest process which Party Group Leaders were previously briefed on. The Director offered to provide further Party briefings on request.

4. Belfast 2024 Update

The Director of Economic Development provided a briefing on the Belfast 2024 programme following deferral at June SP&R Committee. The programme manager then provided a detailed presentation including an overview of the engagement with communities that has taken place to date and a summary of the proposed projects being recommended for commission.

5. Memorial Request

Councillor de Faoite outlined a request for consideration to be given to the erection of a memorial in City Hall. Members discussed current memorials and also the recent Day of Reflection and it was agreed that the request come back to Party Group Leaders for further consideration at a future meeting.

6. Planning Update

The City Solicitor advised that the Local Development Plan had now been formally adopted. The Plan Strategy was formally adopted on 2nd May 2023, and the challenge period has now concluded. The City Solicitor also updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in the coming months.

7. AOB

Chief Officer Recruitment

The Director of Human Resources advised that the timeframe for the recruitment of the posts of Strategic Director of City Operations and the Strategic Director of Place and Economy had previously been approved. A report for the constitution of the selection panels for both will be brought to August SP&R Committee for Members consideration. She also outlined for Members the proposed advertising approach for these posts, the detail of which will be included in the report.

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor - Political Advisory Group

The Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive outlined for Members that as part of the governance structure for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, three elected members from each council are nominated to serve on a political advisory board. Following the local government elections this year nominations are now being sought. A report will be brought to August SP&R committee.

Bonfire Review

Members noted that a Bonfire Review meeting will take place on 5 September 2023 and the meeting request has been circulated. In relation to a query raised by Members the City Solicitor confirmed that any issues Members may have can be raised at the meeting.

All-Party Members' Cost-of-Living Task Group

The Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive advised that a request had been issued by Democratic Services seeking nominations for an All Party Members' Cost of Living Task Group. Party Group Leaders agreed to forward nominations in advance of the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15th August.

Request for use of Woodvale Park

The Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive outlined the details of a request received for the use of Woodvale Park. She advised that given the timescales

involved the Director of City Services would approve under delegated authority. Members requested further information and the Director of City Services to follow up.

Organisational Reviews and Change Programme

The City Solicitor provided an update of the status of the organisational reviews which had been ongoing for more than four years previously discussed at June SP&R committee. Members noted the update provided and that the report due to go to August SP&R may now go in September as discussions are still ongoing.

Request for Art Work

Councillor Black outlined a request received for some art work in the City to celebrate Oscar winning an Irish Goodbye. This will be added to the August SP&R agenda as an issue raised by a Member.

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