

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 20th May, 2022

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Groogan (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, Dorrian and Sandford; and
Councillors Beattie, Black, Bunting, Carson, Garrett,
Heading, McDonough-Brown, McLaughlin, Murphy,
Pankhurst, Spratt and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director
of Finance and Resources;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and
Development; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Lyons.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 9th May, 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 recorded.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following three items 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 meeting during discussion of the following

three items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

City Hall Recovery Plan - Update on Progress

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on progress in relation to the City Hall reopening and recovery.

During discussion, several Members requested that consideration be given to full in-person attendance at meetings of the full Council instead of the proportionality arrangements currently in place, with a view to this commencing at the Annual Meeting to held on 1st June.

In response, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Return to the Office Management Trade Union Working Group would be meeting early the following week and he would relay the Committee's view and advise the Members of the outcome as soon as practicable.

2 Royal Avenue - Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Candidate Project/Capital Regeneration Programmes/ Update on Funding

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the proposal to develop an application for Levelling Up Round 2 Funding (LUF) in respect of 2 Royal Avenue and to seek its approval to do so following discussion at last month's meeting.

The report also provided an update on the scale of the Physical Programme currently underway across the City, together with an overview of key Regeneration projects and an update on current funding opportunities available to the Council, noting that officers would be designing a pipeline of projects for these future funding opportunities to ensure that the Council would be able to put forward relevant projects for funding which were in a state of readiness and aligned with strategic priorities.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i noted the further information provided on the scale of the current physical programme, key regeneration projects and proposals regarding working up a future pipeline of projects;
- ii in light of this and, given the tight timescales for the LUF Round 2 applications, granted approval for officers to develop a bid in relation to the future use of 2 Royal Avenue, with further updates to be brought back to the Committee as required;

- iii noted the update in respect of requests for support for other Groups and private sector led bids under LUF, including the change in the funding criteria in respect of capital delivery and that clarification was being sought from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) on the implications of this for the Council. Given that, the Committee agreed that all such requests should be brought back to a Special meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in terms of endorsement for other applications once formal requests and clarification on the implications for Council has been received;
- iv agreed to accept an invitation from the Inclusive Growth Network for a Political leader to participate in a panel event relating to Levelling Up in the devolved nations on 22nd June 2022 and authorised the incoming Lord Mayor to attend the event and, if not available, that the incoming Committee Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson attend;
- v noted the update in relation to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme; and
- vi noted the plan to develop, through discussion with Party Group Leaders, a pipeline of projects to ensure the Council can access future funding opportunities in line with our strategic priorities.

Recruitment of Post of Director of Finance and Resources

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 28th March, it had:

- i approved the recruitment of the post of Director of Finance and Resources on a permanent basis; and
- ii agreed that the selection panel should consist of:
 - a. the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees) and Councillor Bunting; and
 - b. the Chief Executive (or his nominee) and a Director.

The Director advised the Members that neither the Chairperson nor a nominee would be able to sit on the panel, therefore, he was seeking an additional panel not representing either the Sinn Fein Party or Democratic Unionist Party.

The Committee agreed that Councillor Lyons be appointed as the third political representative on the panel.

The Committee noted that, if the additional Member was not available, then the Director would be contacting the Local Government Staff Commission for approval for the panel to consist of three persons.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Quarterly Update on Motions

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of all motions for which the SP and R Committee is responsible.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the updates on all motions that the Committee is responsible for; and
- agree to the closure of motions 13,17, 18, 34, 82, 115, 193, 216, 220, 221, 223, 227, 230, 231, 238, 240, 246, 249 and 250, as referenced in the attached appendix and in paragraph 3.4 below.

3.0 Main Report

Background

At the SP and R Committee meeting on 25th October 2019, the following motion was agreed:

‘This Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to motions; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly motion update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:

1. Date received
2. motion title
3. Submitted by which Councillor
4. Council meeting date
5. Committee motion is referred to
6. Outcome of Committee where the motion will be debated

7. Month it will be reported back to committee
8. Other action to be taken.'

Following a review exercise, a new database containing all motions and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and quarterly reporting to Committee commenced in March 2021. The latest quarterly update showing all active motions and Issues Raised in Advance for which the SP and R Committee is responsible is attached.

Closure of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance

- 3.3 At the SP and R Committee meeting on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that motions could be closed for one of two reasons:

- motions which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and
- motion which have become Council policy.

- 3.4 The Committee is asked to agree that the following 19 motions be closed:

Category 1 Recommended Closures:

- Social Investment Fund (Ref no 13) –This motion called for the recommendations of the SIF Audit to be taken forward. The learnings from this audit and ensuring compliance with OBA principles are now embedded into the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund programme. Therefore, it is recommended that this motion is now closed.
- Dog Friendly Policies (Ref no 17) – This motion called for the Council to make its public properties dog friendly. The Council's current policy is that we do not allow dogs that are not guide dogs into our facilities (both staff and public facilities). There is no written policy after that. To make all council properties 'dog friendly' would be a significant policy change with health and safety, hygiene, insurance and liability and facility upgrade implications. It is recommended that the current policy in respect of guide dogs be continued due to the reasons outlined.

- **Feasibility Support Fund for each AWG (Ref no 18)** – a framework is being agreed around NRF and feasibility support is incorporated into the project proposal development process. This is now embedded in the NRF which includes feasibility support. Therefore, it is recommended that this motion is now closed.
- **Unregulated Car Washes (Ref no 34)** – This motion called for a report to be prepared on the number of unregulated car washes across Belfast. The Council has no responsibility for regulating or licensing hand car washes and valet services. Responsibility for Health and Safety at such car washes lies with the HSENI. The NI Environment Agency has responsibility for enforcing the requirements of the Water (NI) Order 1999 and have advised Council officers that in line with guidance they would recommend that vehicle washes are connected to mains sewer where possible and a suitable treatment system would be required. The NIEA currently has no vehicle wash sites in Belfast on its books which hold a consent to discharge. Further enquiries with the NIEA, HSENI and PSNI has not determined that the relevant data can be sourced from elsewhere.
- **Roselawn Cemetery (Ref no 82)** – This motion requested that a further equality screening be carried out in relation to the proposed new 2 chapel crematorium and refurbishment of the existing crematorium at Roselawn. An update was provided to Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group in December, 2021 and agreed at the P and C Committee meeting in January.
- **COP 26 Global Day of Action (Ref no 216)** – All agreed actions were completed in November 2021, including the circulation of promotional materials and the illumination of the City Hall.
- **Illumination of a Council Building – Samaritan's Longest Night Event 21/11/21 (Ref no 220)** – Belfast Castle was illuminated on 21st December, 2021.
- **Illegal Puppy Trade (Ref no 221)** – As requested, the Council's views were expressed in writing to the DAERA Minister and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 17th December, 2021.

- **Support for Higher Education Staff (Ref no 223)**- As requested, the Council's views were expressed in writing to the senior management of Queens University and Ulster University.
- **Free Public Transport for Young People (Ref no 230)** – As requested, the Council's views were expressed in writing to the Minister of Infrastructure and the senior management of Translink.
- **End of Hunting of Mammals with Dogs (Ref no 231)** – As requested, the Council's views were expressed in writing to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Committee responsible for DAERA. Their responses were noted by the P and C Committee on 8th March 2022.
- **The Samaritans (Ref no 238)** – The Council was asked to commend and recognise the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans and the motion was passed at Council meeting on 1st March 2022.
- **Illumination of Belfast Castle for the Samaritans (Ref no 240)** – On 28th March, the SP and R Committee granted approval to illuminate Belfast Castle in green on 21st December 2022 to mark the Longest Night.
- **University Sector Industrial Dispute (Ref no 246)** – As requested, the Council's views were expressed in writing to the Vice Chancellors of Queens University and Ulster University on 14th April, 2022.
- **Illumination of City Hall – Menstrual Hygiene Day 28th May – (Ref no 249)** – the SP and R Committee granted approval to illuminate the City Hall on the evening of 28th May 2022 to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day.
- **Illumination of City Hall – An Lar Dearg – (Ref no 250)** – The SP and R Committee granted approval to illuminate the City Hall in red on 20th May to symbolise the campaign for language rights.

Category 2 Recommended Closures:

- **Racism free zone (Ref no 115)** – There have been a number of internal working groups to look at different elements raised in this motion and the Council is also

working with Inclusive Cities and has agreed to be a City of Sanctuary.

- **Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Ref no 193)** – The S P and R Committee, on 18th February, agreed to allocate funding of £100,000 for events to take place in local communities across the city over the Platinum Jubilee weekend (2nd – 5th June 2022). The Community Foundation NI administered the fund. The grants scheme closed on 11th April and awards will be made w/c 2nd May. The Committee was provided with an update on this activity on 25th March.
- **Holocaust Memorial Day (Ref no 227)** – Elements of this motion were incorporated into Holocaust Memorial Day held in January 2022. These will be incorporated into the planning of Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2023.

3.5 **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.

3.6 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed:

Holocaust Memorial Day

That an update report in relation to the Holocaust Memorial Day arrangements be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Unregulated Car Washes

That officers ascertain whether the NI Environmental Agency had powers of entry.

Fertility Treatment Leave

That an updated report on the motion on Fertility Treatment Leave be submitted to the June meeting of the Committee.

Closure of Ulster Bank

Democratic Services to ascertain what responses had been received in relation to the motion of the Closure of the Ulster Bank.

Motion: Proposed Cuts in Higher Education – Responses from Ministers

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To consider a response to a motion on Proposed Cuts in Higher Education which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the responses and take such action thereon as may be determined.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The Council, at its meeting on 1st February, passed the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Matt Collins:

‘This Council notes with alarm the budget cut proposals put forward by the Department for the Economy to reduce university places, massively increase tuition fees, slash student financial support, cut the number of apprentices, and reduce or end the Educational Maintenance Allowance.

The Council supports an end to tuition fees and an increase in the Educational Maintenance Allowance and student financial support. The Council agrees that these proposed actions and cuts are completely unacceptable, especially at a time when students across the city are already struggling to make ends meet. As noted by the NUS-USI, these cuts ‘have the potential to decimate the hopes and opportunities of an entire generation’ and could take away ‘their ability to survive day to day, and many will simply drop out of education’.

Therefore, the Council considers the proposals to constitute an unacceptable attack on students, young people, their

futures and our education provision; and stands in solidarity with demands from the NUS-USI to oppose these cuts.

The Council will write to the Economy Minister to express its anger and opposition to these proposals and to encourage the Minister to abandon them. In that letter, the Council will invite the Minister to a meeting with Councillors and representatives of the student population, in order to fully understand and appreciate the breadth of our concerns and the danger his proposals present.

The Council calls on the wider Stormont Executive to refuse to give consent to these proposals and cuts and to take all necessary action to defend student places, student financial assistance, apprenticeships, the Educational Maintenance Allowance and to oppose any increase in the cost of student tuition. Accordingly, the Council will write to each Executive Minister to this effect.

The Council also calls on the Finance Minister to work with the Minister for the Economy to find a sustainable solution to funding issues within the higher and further education sectors. The Council considers it utterly unacceptable that young people in our city should be made to pay the price for budgetary pressures and include in our letter to the Minister for Finance a demand that funding is found to secure the future for young people.

This Council recognises that many of these proposed budget cuts are as a result of the loss of EU funds due to Brexit.

Finally, the Council recognises the role of Westminster budgets in creating difficulties for public spending locally and agrees to write to the treasury on behalf of local students to demand increased budgetary funding to stave off these proposals.'

3.2 Responses to the motion are attached and are summarised as follows:

- The Rt. Hon Michelle Donelan MP, Minister of State for Higher and Further Education, stresses that Higher Education funding is a devolved matter and is not, therefore, an issue upon which she can comment (Appendix 1);**

- The Private Secretary to the former Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs acknowledges the receipt of the Council's letter and confirms that it is being dealt with by the Minister for the Economy (Appendix 2);
- The Private Secretary to the former Minister for Infrastructure states that, whilst that Department has no direct responsibility in this area, the Minister is very supportive of Education, including Higher Education, and recognises the benefits which this has for society here (Appendix 3);
- The former Minister of Health points out that a stable, sustainable higher education sector is important to the Department of Health in securing the supply of high-quality local students into a wide range of healthcare professions and that it will engage closely with the Department for Economy as proposals are developed (Appendix 4);
- The former Minister for Education highlights the significant financial pressures being faced currently by all Departments and the difficult decisions to be taken around budgets. Given the absence of an Executive to agree a budget and the decision of the former Minister of Finance to pause the public consultation on the draft budget for 2022-25, she does not consider it appropriate to comment further at this time (Appendix 5).
- The former Minister of Finance, in Appendix 5, highlights the fact that the Draft Budget for 2022-25 would have seen the Department for the Economy's allocation increase from its baseline figure of £817.8 million to £832.1 million in 2022-23, £842.1 million in 2023-24 and £841.3 million in 2024-25. He points out that expenditure is at the discretion of the Minister for the Economy, based on their priorities, including Higher Education. However, there is pressure on the Department for Economy's budget due to the loss of EU funding streams which it has previously relied on.

He goes on to state that the Government's Spending Review did not provide sufficient resources to fund every pressure across all Departments, but the Draft Budget 2022-25 honoured the Executive's commitment to prioritise health and would also have

ensured that all Departments would see their budgets increase.

Finally, he points out that the resignation of the First Minister and the absence of an Executive has meant that it is not now possible to agree a Budget and the consultation on the Draft Budget has been paused. As a result, the allocations for the Department for the Economy set out in the Draft Budget were not available from 1st April 2022.

- The former Minister for the Economy, in Appendix 7, confirms that his Department submitted a package of bids, as part of Budget 2022-25, focused firstly on meeting inescapable pressures to allow the Department to just stand still, then on measures to support economic recovery, investment in skills, all age apprenticeships, innovation, tourism and green growth – all to support the delivery of 10x, the strategic vision for the Northern Ireland economy.

He goes on to state that the Minister of Finance's Draft Budget for 2022-25 does not propose to meet these bids or prioritise the economy. The Draft Budget would result in a cut in real terms to the Department for the Economy of 8% in Year 1, rising to 13% in Year 3, and totalling £259 million across the three years. This does not allow his Department to stand still, let alone improve the performance of Northern Ireland in key skills and innovation indicators.

He points out that, with inescapable departmental expenditure limit pressures in excess of £300 million over the three-year period, the Draft Budget means that the Department for Economy needs to find solutions to fund these. In a budget where three quarters is spent on education and skills, there are no easy options that will not be a setback for the economy and the lives of the people of Northern Ireland.

Whilst one third of the Department for Economy's pressures relate to key DfE services previously funded from the UK Government's contribution to Europe, this funding has not gone. The UK Government has made a commitment to replace, at a minimum, the level of EU funding that flowed into Northern Ireland. However, negotiations led by the

Minister of Finance and his Department have, to date, resulted in additional funding for Northern Ireland being managed by Westminster, with no alignment to the Executive's priorities. He adds that, unless the Minister of Finance ensures that funding into Northern Ireland from the UK Government meets the Executive's priorities, some core DfE services, such as apprenticeships and grants for innovation, remain unfunded. The only remaining option for the delivery of these key services is an increased prioritisation in future budget allocations.

The former Minister goes on to state that, as part of the Draft Budget process, Department for Economy officials have been modelling potential options to allow the Department to live within the Minister of Finance's Draft Budget. No decisions have yet been made around this.

He then emphasises the need for Northern Ireland to invest in skills, education and innovation programmes as competitor countries are not standing still. It will be a matter for the Executive as a whole to agree Departmental budget allocations and he has been clear from the outset that he is not supportive of the Minister of Finance's Draft Budget.

The former Minister concludes by recognising the concerns of the Council and student representatives in relation to the constraints on future skills investment arising from the proposed Draft Budget. He stresses the need for continued engagement and would welcome the Council's support in making a case for any future budget for Northern Ireland to provide greater priority for our economy, including investment in Skills and Education.

Financial and Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report."

The Committee noted the responses which had been received.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

**Response to Department for Infrastructure Consultation
on Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage**

The Committee was advised that the Department for Infrastructure had, on 11th March, published a consultation on policies relating to water, flooding and sustainable drainage which were being considered for future amendments to primary legislation. A copy of the consultation document can be found [here](#). The closing date for responses was 3rd June, 2022.

There were nine topics included within the consultation, which covered a range of proposed new or amended powers for the Department and NI Water. The topics being consulted upon were:

- i Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures;
- ii Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works, for flood risk management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
- iii Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments;
- iv Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973;
- v Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections;
- vi Power for NI Water to register Article 161 Agreements in the Statutory Charges Register;
- vii Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures;
- viii Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage; and
- ix Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Council officers had collated a draft response to the consultation and this was attached to the report and be found on the Council's website [here](#).

In summary, the response that the Council would, in principle, support the suggested changes and, where appropriate, outlined where it believed further clarification was required.

The Committee approved the draft response.

Belfast One Million Trees Programme – Amendment to Funding Agreement

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th August 2021, it had approved the establishment of a funding agreement with the Woodland Trust to the value of £45,000 for the service of volunteer coordination, community outreach and support for PR and communication for the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.

Subsequently, discussions had taken place between the Belfast One Million Trees delivery partners, namely, the Council, Belfast Hills Partnership and the Woodland Trust, which had resulted in a request for a variation, and that the funding agreement be made with Belfast Hills Partnership rather than with the Woodland Trust.

The Belfast Hills Partnership had acted as the primary support for the Council's Climate Unit in the delivery of the Belfast One Million Trees Programme. The Council would remain the co-ordinating body and continue to lead the programme, act on behalf of the city steering group, and lead on funding and the administration of the programme.

The Committee approved the amendment to the funding agreement to reflect that the Council would now work with Belfast Hills Partnership to deliver engagement and communication support services for the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.

Corporate Performance Management Framework

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee an update on the development of a Corporate Performance Management Framework and how this relates to measuring city-wide performance for the refreshed Belfast Agenda.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the update, including the commitment to bring forward regular performance update reports for consideration.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Members are reminded that, within the Corporate Plan, there is a strategic priority around the development of a Corporate Performance Management Framework and that in the recently agreed delivery plan for 2022-23 the key deliverables are:

- review performance management framework;
- procure external support to review planning and performance framework;
- ensure that oversight arrangements are in place to provide assurance on our corporate deliverables at Executive and political levels; and
- scope and develop performance dashboards in line with review of the performance management framework.

- 3.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on some of the work that is currently ongoing on relation to corporate performance management and the steps being taken to further enhance the approach to measuring the impact of the Belfast Agenda and the underpinning action plans on the city and communities.**

Corporate Plan Reporting

- 3.3 Members are reminded that there is reporting mechanism in place for the Corporate Plan and that a year-end report on the 2021-22 Corporate Delivery Plan will be brought to the June meeting of this Committee. It has been agreed that a 6-monthly update on the 2022-23 Delivery Plan will be brought to Committee, in addition to the year-end report. We would anticipate that the 6-monthly report would be brought to this Committee in November 2022 and the year-end report in June, 2023.**

- 3.4 As part of this cycle annual Committee Plans are also developed and regular updates on progress are brought to the relevant Committee. It is anticipated that the Committee Plans for 2022/23 will be brought to the relevant Committees next month.**

Improvement Plan

- 3.5 As a Council, we must publish an annual improvement plan that sets out our improvement actions for the year ahead. This is a legal obligation referred to as our Duty to Improve. We are currently finalising our Improvement Plan 2022/23 and this will be brought to the June meeting of this Committee for consideration and approval. The new performance management framework will take into consideration our legal requirements articulated through the improvement plan.**

Belfast Agenda – City’s Community Plan

- 3.6 In addition to assessing and reporting organisational performance against the delivery of the Corporate Plan, the Council is the convening lead for community planning and delivery of the Belfast Agenda. In this capacity the Council has a direct delivery role as an organisation as well as working across sectors and partners to encourage and enable collaborative action in addressing key city priorities and challenges.
- 3.7 Progress updates on the Belfast Agenda are reported on a quarterly basis to the SP and R Committee, alongside regular updates being submitted to other standing Committees (i.e. People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Climate and City Resilience) on specific programmes and interventions being brought forward and their associated impact. Members will be aware that the All-Party Community Planning Reference Group has been reconstituted as a Working Group of Council reporting into the SP and R Committee. This provides a forum for Members to engage in more detailed discussions around community planning priorities and help inform the refresh of the Belfast Agenda (2022-2026) currently underway. The Members’ Working Group will also provide a forum to monitor, test and challenge both organisational, and importantly city, performance in context of community planning going forward.
- 3.8 In line with the refresh of the Belfast Agenda, work is underway with community partners to develop an underpinning monitoring and reporting framework. This will encourage and enable a structured approach to setting outcome and impact measures and indicators as well as measuring and reporting progress against these. In addition to the formal Statement of Progresses every two years, the intention would be to introduce a more frequent progress reporting on performance and associated scorecards to the Community Planning Partnership, established Belfast Agenda delivery boards and Council Committees. The University of Ulster Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) are providing external support in developing the framework and will have a continued role as a critical friend to help support and mainstream our approach. We are also assessing the approach taken by other councils to identify best practice in this area.

- 3.9 Members will be aware that the Council and the Belfast Community Planning Partnership are statutorily required to publish a 'Statement of Progress' every two years which assesses and reports on the progress made and outcomes delivered through community planning. The second and most recent statement was published in November 2021 and provided. Whilst this provided an opportunity for partners and community planning to outline the actions and interventions which has been brought forward through community planning, it notably adopted a light touch approach to reporting on outcomes achieved.
- 3.10 Plans will be put in place to design future versions of the Residents Survey to support the measuring of progress towards the achievement of the Belfast Agenda stretch goals, targets and outcome measures alongside measurements for the Council's Corporate Plan. We will continue to work with city partners and stakeholders to explore new ways to measuring the impact and outcomes achieved through community planning and ensuring alignment with regional measures including the emerging Programme for Government. Monitoring and reporting will be an ongoing process, that will be subject to change as new priorities emerge and further data is developed.

Inclusive Growth

- 3.11 Inclusive Growth is at the centre of the Belfast Agenda and a key part of success will be determined by our ability to prioritise the outcomes and indicators which are most likely to achieve our ambition of 'leaving no one behind' and enabling all citizens to contribute to and benefit from the economic growth in the City and to assess the extent to which interventions are having the desired impact.
- 3.12 Through the Council's membership of the Inclusive Growth Network, support has been secured to draw on their expert advisors to assist in the development of a suite of appropriate measures that will support the statement of our ambition and enable an assessment of progress over time. It is intended that this Inclusive Growth Scorecard will be supported by a monitoring & reporting framework to ensure that we have the capability to capture, record and report on progress at both an organisational level for the Council and a city level through the Community Planning Partnership.

- 3.13 The Inclusive Growth Strategy includes a commitment of 'holding ourselves to account'. The scope of the Inclusive Growth Scorecard and Framework should support an element of measurement of success by the experience of growth as well as communities of interest and geography. However, as the Committee is aware, access to meaningful, detailed and timely data presents a challenge particularly at a local government level, therefore there will be limitations, particularly in the initial implementation and proxy measures may be required.
- 3.14 The application of the monitoring framework and scorecard to assess progress provides another tool (alongside others such as the decision-making framework, social value procurement policy, our employment practices and the Belfast Business Promise) to help embed inclusive growth in the Council's and Community Planning Partnership's decision-making processes.

3.15 Climate

The Council co-ordinates the development of both citywide and council climate plans and is responsible for the oversight of the Belfast Resilience Strategy, which is monitored through the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board. At city level, the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap sets out targets for the city to become Net Zero. Belfast has also begun to report to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), with the first submission made in 2021, and the second due in July 2022. Belfast has also joined global initiatives such as the Race to Zero, Race to Resilience and Glasgow Climate and Food Pledge. The key pieces of work relating to climate at Council level which will inform the performance framework are:

- The Belfast City Council Carbon Baseline and Trajectory report, and associated Energy Audits of 5 buildings across the estate, which will identify Council's current carbon baseline and makes recommendations with the aim of becoming net zero. The Carbon Baseline and Trajectory report is currently being progressed, with Energy Audits to be undertaken in June 2022.
- The Belfast City Council Climate Risk Assessment, Climate Action Plan, and Climate Investment Plan, which will be complete by the end of 2022. These plans will focus on mitigation and adaptation and will build upon previous work undertaken by Climate NI to develop a Council Climate Adaptation Plan.

- An expression of interest exercise has been undertaken, which seeks to identify a Digital Platform that will support programme and performance management across the climate portfolio and with the potential to expand for other uses.
- In addition, the Climate Unit co-ordinates the BCC Climate Plan Programme Board, and reports to the Climate and City Resilience Committee.

Other Projects

- 3.16 Members will be aware that the Council is involved in delivering a range of other projects, some in partnership with other organisations, such as those under the Belfast City Region Deal, and these will all have associated performance and monitoring frameworks. Performance reports on these be brought through the agreed processes including regular update to the relevant Committees.

Next Steps

- 3.17 The next stage in this process will be to review the current performance framework and to commission external support to assist with this work. As part of this work, officers will undertake an exercise to consider the linkages and alignment of existing performance reporting mechanisms, including those outlined in this report, to any new Corporate Performance Management Framework. We would anticipate that officers will have the external support in place by mid-summer and will bring regular reports to Committee updating them on progress.

3.18 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no implications associated with this report. However external support will be required to assist in elements of this work and such requests will be brought through the usual approval processes.

3.19 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the update, including the commitment to bring forward regular performance update reports for consideration.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Asset Management

The Committee:

i) Corporation Street Car Park – Licence Renewal from DfI

- approved the renewal of a Licence Agreement from DfI to the Council for the off-street car park at Corporation Street

ii) Corporation Street - Grant of Licence Agreement for advertising hoarding, to Clear Channel NI Ltd.

- approved the Licence Agreement for advertising hoarding at Corporation Street site to Clear Channel NI Ltd

iii) Balmoral Estate -Deed of Variation to extend term of ground Leases at Plots 56 and 57

- approved the extension of the current term of the ground leases at Plots 56 and 57 Balmoral Estate to a term of 125 years from 2022.

Update on Physical Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme currently includes 170 capital projects, with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. This report requests a movement on the Capital Programme and provides an update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund.

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- **Proposed movement on the Capital Programme: City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT community - agree that both projects be added to the Capital Programme at Stage1 – Emerging.**

- **Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund** – note the update provided on the new capital fund.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the City which improves existing Council assets or provides new Council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as BIF, LIF and SOF, as well as numerous capital programmes which we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include NHLF, SEUPB Peace IV, the Executive Office via Social Investment Fund and Urban Villages, DfC, DfI, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages and others. When appropriate, as per Covid 19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects which have been completed.

Proposed Movement – Capital Programme

3.2 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a Three Stage process, where decisions on which projects progress are taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. This provides assurance on the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project.

The Committee is asked to agree to the following addition to the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT community	The creation of two new stained glass windows at City Hall, in recognition of the Health Service in Belfast and the acknowledgement of the positive role of the LGBT community in Belfast	Add as Stage 1 - Emerging

City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT community

Members will recall that, in November 2018, the Committee agreed to progress a stained-glass window to recognise the LGBT community. All proposals in relation to stained glass windows are now taken via the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installation Working Group. At its meeting on 12th April 2022, the Installations Working Group agreed to recommend to the Committee that the stained-glass windows in recognition of the Health Service and the contribution of LGBT citizens be progressed to *Stage 1 – Emerging* on the Capital Programme. This will allow the business case to be developed with further detail to be brought back to the Committee in due course. This project is in reference to the following Notices of Motion: ‘Recognition of the Health Service in Belfast’ (Notice of Motion 03/05/2016), and ‘The acknowledgement of the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our city’ (Notice of Motion 03/04/2017). The Working Group was asked to note that there are a limited number of windows left within the City Hall, and it agreed to keep any remaining proposals under review.

Programme update - Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

- 3.3 Members will recall that, in November 2021, they agreed the programme framework including the project pathway, open call application process and the outcomes approach for the £8m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. The 12-week open call process has now taken place and the application stage closed on 12th May. The fund has attracted significant interest and a high volume of applications has been received. An intensive period of eligibility review and validation is now underway ahead of assessment and moderation. A project must score over a minimum threshold in order to proceed to the next stage. Members will then make recommendations via Area Working Group meetings on which projects can progress to the next stage. These recommendations will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval. It is anticipated that this will take place in Autumn 2022, however, due to the high volume of applications received, this timeline may be subject to change. Members will be kept updated on progress.

3.4 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Financial – None at this stage

Resources – Officer time to deliver as required

**3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Update on Contracts

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 1**);
- approved the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 2**); and
- noted the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 3**):

Appendix 1

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Tender for MTC for General builder/wet trades for small building fabric repairs & maintenance to all Council Properties and locations	Up to 5 years	£90,000	S Grimes	The provision of building works not carried out by the Property Maintenance Unit including internal demolition, alterations, concrete work, brickwork and finishes

Digitisation of Building Control records	Up to 4 years	£100,000	K Bentley	There is the requirement to convert application forms, drawings and relevant correspondence into an electronic format. This will assist in the ability to retrieve data quicker and for disaster recovery and business continuity.
Provision of Fuels Please Note: Awarded via Crown Commercial Services framework under national fuel supply agreement	Up to 2 years	£3,000,000	C Mathews	These fuels are used throughout Belfast City Council sites to ensure the operation of vehicles and the heating of buildings
Manufacture, supply and delivery of waste compactors	Up to 12 months	£160,000	C Mathews	Replacement of compactors that have reached their end of life
Provision of planning and environmental consultancy services to enable and assist Belfast City Council's Public Health and Housing and Environmental Protection Unit to provide timely and planning consultation responses	Up to 12 months	£100,000	S Toland	There is currently a backlog of plans due to staff shortages as well as an increase in the complexity of plans that require assessment.
Maintenance & Removal of Hanging Baskets	Up to 3 years and 3 months	£170,000	R Crozier	To maintain hanging baskets for Belfast in Bloom and remove baskets at end of season
Tender for the Administration and	Up to 3 years	£75,000	J Walsh	Current contract period expires 31

provision of a suite of First-aid Training courses for delivery to Council staff (and potentially to organisations delivering Services for and on behalf of the Council)				August 2022
Belfast City Centre Connectivity Study Phases 2 and 3	Up to 8 months	£40,650	J Greer	Multi-disciplinary team in place but due to additional requirements an extension to the contract is required to deliver the final strategy. Specialist skills are required that are not within Belfast City Council.

Table 2: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Supplier
T2085 - A Key Deliverable of the PEACE IV Shared Space & Services theme (volunteer training) Lot 2 Cycling Leads	Up to 19 months	Additional 3 months	S Toland/ R Crozier	Sustrans Limited
T2085 - A Key Deliverable of the PEACE IV Shared Space & Services theme (volunteer training) Lot 3 Walking Leads	Up to 19 months	Additional 3 months	S Toland/ R Crozier	Sustrans Limited
T2085 (b) A Key Deliverable of the PEACE IV Shared Space & Services theme (volunteer training)	Up to 12 months	Additional 3 months	S Toland/ R Crozier	Volunteer Now Enterprise Ltd
T2084 (b) A Key Deliverable of the PEACE IV Shared Space & Services theme (Intergenerational project)	Up to 19 months	Additional 3 months	S Toland/ R Crozier	Mediation NI

Table 3: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Supplier
Purchase of reusable, sustainable period products to be offered to council area residents on behalf of BCC	Until delivered	£40,000	R Crozier	Hey Girls

Equality and Good Relations

Disability Action Plan 2022-2025

The Committee was reminded that, under section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 ('the Act'), (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006) public authorities, when carrying out their functions must, have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

The Council's current Disability Action Plan expired in March 2022. In January, the Council carried out a disability exercise with the departments and, by doing this, was able to develop the three-year DDO Disability Action Plan.

The draft document was being presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval and would then be submitted for a twelve-week period of public consultation from 30th May – 19th August 2022. The final document would then be resubmitted to the Committee with any subsequent amendments.

The Committee:

- approved the Draft Disability Action Plan 2022- 2025, as set out in the appendix to the report; and
- approved the document for consultation for a 12-week period, from 30th May to 19th August, 2022.

Equality and Diversity: Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report – Quarter 4 2020-21

The Committee noted the contents of a report providing a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for the period from October to December, 2021.

Minutes of Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 9th May, including:

PEACE IV

Children and Young People

CYP 1 – GIGA

- To realign participant numbers between Lots 1 and 2 with Lot 1 (age 6-11) increasing by 80 participants and Lot 2 (age 12-16) reducing by 80 participants.

CYP 3 – OTRT

- To extend participation in the project to young people/individual not involved or registered with an affiliated sports club.

CYP 5 – NIHE

- To include a Resource Allocation approach for both CYP and BPR projects, subject to the approval of the SEUPB and agreed in principle to extend delivery of the project to December 2022 subject to extended Letters of Offer from SEUPB.

Shared Spaces and Services

- To agree a three-month extension, until 30th September 2022 for the Mediation NI contract and to extend all four volunteer projects (Sustrans, Volunteer Now and The Conservation Volunteers) to 30th September 2022.

Building Positive Relations

BPR1 Cross Community Networks

- To agree a modification request from South West CCAN to hold an overnight residential in NI as part of BPR1 Stage 3 Programme Activity for participants.

BPR3 Transform for Change-NICVA

- To amalgamate the Resource Allocation for 2 projects from the Village/Westlink areas to build on their concept for Shared past Shared Future.
- To delegate authority to the BPR Chair and the PIV Programme Manager to consider requests to amalgamate resource allocations for urgent future projects.

BPR6 St. Comgalls

- To extend the project to 31st August 2022, in principle, subject to submission of a formal request.
- To agree to increasing the Peace IV NIHE contract with Park Hood by £7.5k to enable concept drawings on the redesign of a Peace Wall to be compiled.

Good Relations

- To note that a Letter of Offer had been received in the amount of £568,938.27 from The Executive Office towards the Council's Good Relations Action Plan 22/23.

PEACE PLUS

- To agree to hold a workshop for SCP Members to consider the shaping of the design of the new Peace Plus Programme.
- To agree that officers proceed with organising area information sessions with the consultant's consortium to update stakeholders on the emerging work with regards to PEACEPLUS Local Community PEACE Action Plans.

Operational Issues

Minutes of Meeting of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum of 12th May.

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

The Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations made in respect of those applications received up to 6th May, as set out within the appendix to the report:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2022 EVENTS						
Belfast Film Festival	1 June 2022	Launch of Docs Ireland Festival Programme - an industry focused, all Ireland international documentary festival celebrating filmmaking and provides a platform for both national and international industries. Numbers attending 100	A & B	No (Voluntary/ NFP)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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4094

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th May, 2022

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Hockey Ireland	2 July 2022	<p>Welcome Reception - for the Irish and Scottish boys under 18 and under 16 hockey teams along with their families attending the Irish-Scottish Hockey series at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus, 1-3 July 2022.</p> <p>Numbers attending - 100</p>	A &B	No – Voluntary	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Probation Board NI	14 September 2022	<p>40th Anniversary Awards Ceremony – to mark the 40th anniversary and also mark the achievements of PBNI staff, to reward and recognise staff through our staff awards.</p> <p>Numbers attending - 300</p>	A &B	Charge	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve Charge £300 Wine Reception (£500 given to their chosen caterer)

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th May, 2022

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4095

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
System Transmission Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI)	19 September 2022	Launch of Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment Project to create a high-capacity underground electricity connection through Belfast, to support Northern Ireland's future renewable energy targets. Numbers attending - 150	A &B	Charge	No hospitality	Approve Charge £115 No hospitality
Education Authority, Intercultural Education Service and The Executive Office, Urban Villages	20 September 2022	Schools of Sanctuary Celebration Awards – An awards ceremony for primary and post primary schools participating in the Schools of Sanctuary programme. Numbers attending – 200	C	Yes - £115	No hospitality	Approve Charge £115 No Reception
InteleTravel UK Ltd.	1 October 2022	InteleTravel Quest Gala Dinner (ITQ) - for guests attending their 2-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending – up to 350	A &B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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4096

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th May, 2022

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2023 EVENTS						
British Fertility Society	11 January 2023	BFS 50th Anniversary Conference Dinner - for guests attending their 2-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending – up to 350	A &B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Young Enterprise NI	20 April 2023	YEA NI Awards 2023 Drinks reception, dinner and Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of people across NI who completed YE Programmes. Numbers attending – 300	C	No (Charity)	Approve No Charge No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
European Society for Vascular Society	28 September 2023	Conference Dinner Reception for guests attending their 2-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending - 350	A &B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
The British Endodontic Society	10 November 2023	BES Regional meeting Conference Dinner for guests attending their 2-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending - 300	A &B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
2024 EVENTS						
British Society of Animal Science	10 April 2024	Conference Reception and Dinner for guests attending the 3-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast or QUB. Numbers attending - 200	A &B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

Minutes of the Meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the City Hall/ City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 12th April.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Castle, Cavehill, Zoo and North Foreshore Steering Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Castle, Cavehill, Zoo and North Foreshore Steering Group of 16th May.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Belfast Region City Deal

The Committee noted an update on the latest position in relation to BRCD and that a further report would be submitted to the June meeting

Governance

National Association of Councillors Conference

The Committee was advised that the National Association of Councillors Conference would be taking place in Southport from 24th till 26th June, 2022.

The Committee was reminded that it had appointed 8 Members to the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region) and had, in previous years, authorised attendance of its representatives at National Association Conferences.

The theme of the conference was entitled Emergency Planning and Resilience. It would look at how local Councils, emergency services and power companies react and deal with natural events to protect and assist the communities in which they live and work. It would also examine what resilience had been or could be put in place by local authorities resulting in a cohesive plan to get supplies and services to areas which suffered severe disruption.

The fee for attendance at the conference was £350 plus VAT per delegate. There will also be travel and accommodation costs. Any expenditure in this regard can be met from within existing budgets.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors at the Conference to be held in Southport from 24th to 26th June, 2022.

Chairperson