

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd September, 2022

## MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND  
REMOTEY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor McDonough-Brown (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly);  
Alderman Haire; and Councillors Beattie, Bunting,  
Ferguson, Garrett, Groogan, Heading, Long, Lyons,  
McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Pankhurst, Spratt,  
Verner and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, Chief Executive;  
Mr. R. Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director  
of Finance and Resources;  
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal  
and Civic Services;  
Mr. D. Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Dorrian and Councillor Bradley.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 19th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Pankhurst declared an interest in relation to agenda item 9 – Request to Present, on the basis that he was employed on a temporary contract by Queen's University.

Councillor Spratt also declared an interest in respect of this item, on the basis that his wife was employed by the Ulster University.

The Members were advised by the Chief Executive that, as the item related only to a request for representatives of both universities to attend a future meeting, they were not required to leave this meeting whilst it was being considered.

### **Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following four 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 four 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.

### **Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided an assessment of the key issues which would influence the rate setting process for 2023/24 and the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 - 2025/26.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i noted the challenges to be taken into consideration as part of the annual and medium-term rate setting; and
- ii agreed to receive monthly rate update reports to enable the striking of the district rate by February, 2023.

The Committee agreed also, with thirteen Members voting for and five against, that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Jeffrey Donaldson M.P., the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, requesting that his Political Party engage immediately with the other Political Parties in order to form an Executive to address the cost-of-living crisis.

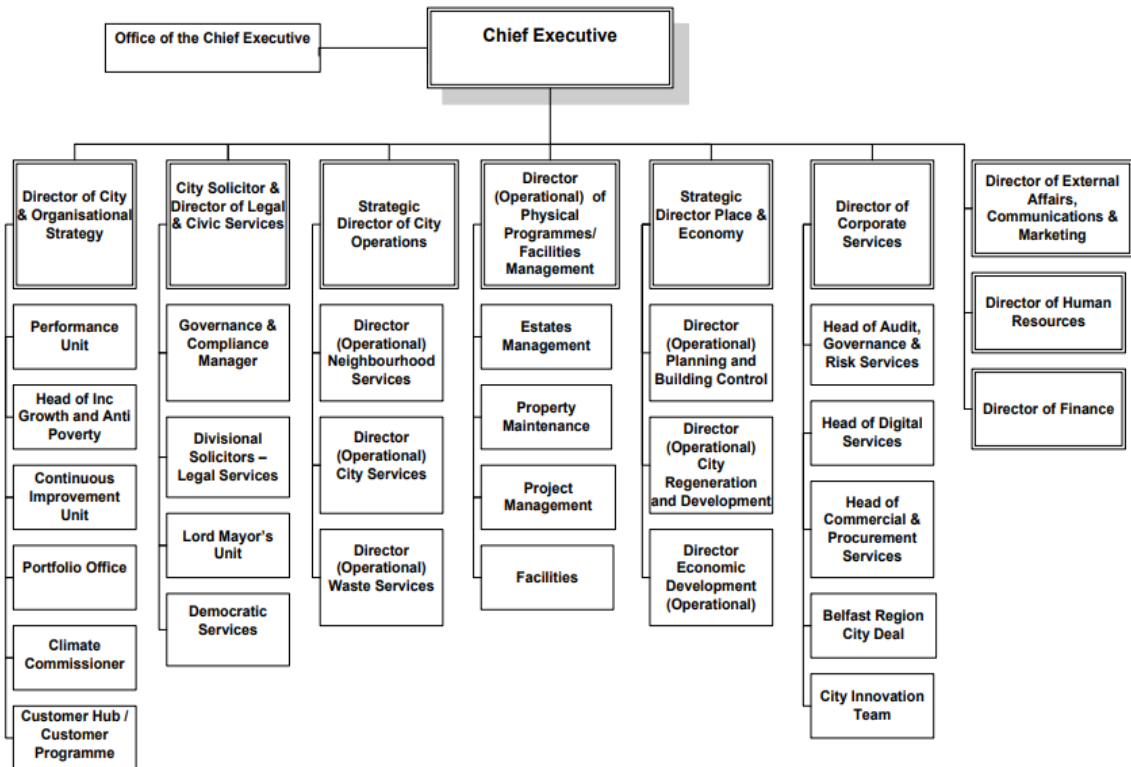
### **Update on Structures**

(With the exception of the Chief Executive, the Senior Democratic Services Officer and the Democratic Services Officer, all officers left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.)

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th August, it had agreed that a report be presented to its next meeting on a proposed structure for a revised Corporate Management Tier.

Accordingly, he drew the Committee's attention to the following proposed organisational model:

**Proposed Organisational Model**



The Chief Executive went on to seek the Committee's approval to implement the following changes at officer leadership level, which would be required under the proposed model:

- i. to replace the post of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources with a post of Director of Corporate Services, with:
  - the finance function to be removed from the portfolio of services and the City Innovation Team to be added; and
  - the Customer Hub and Customer Programme SRO responsibilities and the Corporate Performance Management function to be moved to the Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
- ii. to redesignate the Head of Finance to Director of Finance, with that officer to report directly to the Chief Executive and become a member of the Corporate Management Team in his/her own right;

- iii. to move the Facilities function to the Director of Physical Programmes; and
- iv. to redesignate the Head of Human Resources to Director of Human Resources and the Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications to Director of External Affairs, Communications and Marketing, with each officer to have a direct reporting line to the Chief Executive and become a member of the Corporate Management Team in their own right.

The Committee approved the aforementioned changes and noted that, upon completion of the recruitment of the Strategic Director roles, an expression of interest would be undertaken to fulfil the role of Deputy Chief Executive.

### **Cost-of-Living Payments**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th August, it had agreed that all Council staff below Chief Officer grade would receive two cost-of-living payments and that information on the cost implications of making such payments to agency and casual staff be presented to its next meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources informed the Committee that, as of 7th September, 319 agency staff were employed by the Council. The cost of making two cost-of-living payments to them would be £540,000 and he requested the Committee to consider if it wished to approve those payments.

He went on to report that an analysis of casual workers had indicated that 29 workers undertook casual shifts for the Council on a regular basis and had worked a number of shifts since January, 2022. With that in mind, he presented the following costing options for the Committee to consider:

- i. make two payments to the 29 casual workers who had worked since January 2022, at a cost of £50,000, regardless of the number of hours worked; or
- ii. make two payments to the 16 casual workers who had worked an average of more than one day per week, at a cost of £28,000 and, on a pro-rata basis of 50%, to the remaining 13 casual workers who had on average worked less than one day per week, at a cost of £11,500.

The Committee agreed to make two cost-of-living payments to agency staff and to proceed with option i. for casual workers.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the points which had been raised by a number of Members around the difficulties faced by agency staff in securing permanent posts in the Council would be addressed in the report which he had, on 19th August, undertaken to submit to a future meeting.

### **City Hall Recovery Plan – Update on Progress**

The Committee noted the contents of a report providing an update on the progress being made across each of the operational areas in implementing the City Hall re-opening and recovery plan.

### **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

#### **Motion: All-Party Working Group on Disability – Draft Terms of Reference**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th June, 2020, it had agreed that a motion on Disabled People and Older People, which had been proposed by Councillor McMullan, would be considered within the context of the Council's overall Recovery Programme, to ensure that the response and recovery would be inclusive of disabled people, older people and carers.

The Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services pointed out that the motion had, amongst other things, called for the creation of a Reference Group for Disabled People to enable Members, the Council's Disability Advisory Panel, Council officers and, from time to time, other relevant stakeholders and experts to discuss and progress actions on the Council's commitment to becoming an accessible City for all by 2035.

She explained that it was proposed that an All-Party Working Group on Disability be established, which would meet on a quarterly basis and provide a forum for discussion, as well as receiving updates on the Council's Disability Action Plan. The Working Group would make recommendations on proposed actions and policy development, which would then be presented to this Committee for approval, as required. Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee approve the establishment of the Working Group and endorse the Terms of Reference which had accompanied the Committee report.

Councillor McMullan reinforced the need for a Working Group on Disability and confirmed that he wished to make a number of amendments to the Term of Reference.

After discussion, the Committee approved the establishment of the Working Group on Disability and agreed that the Terms of Reference should be the first item to be considered at its inaugural meeting.

#### **Motion: GLL and Trades Unions – Response from GLL**

The Committee was reminded that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 23rd August, had agreed to adopt the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Michael Collins:

“This Council recognises the importance of collective bargaining in the workplace and the central role of trade unions to this process, as representative voices for workers. Moreover, in a period where very

many workers are opting to take industrial action, the Council recognises the right of workers to do so, and the role it can play in winning much needed pay increases during a cost-of-living crisis and while inflation continues to rise.

The Council notes that there are ongoing issues in Council leisure centres across our city, which workers and their trade unions have been attempting to resolve. The Council also notes, with disappointment, that GLL does not officially recognise trade unions in Council leisure facilities, denying workers the ability to collectively bargain effectively.

This Council agrees that GLL should officially recognise trade unions in Belfast City Council leisure centres and will write to the leadership of the organisation to urge it to do so.

The Chief Executive of the Council will also convene a meeting with the relevant trade unions to hear directly about the issues facing workers in our leisure centres and commit to address them with GLL.”

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that a response had been received from Mr. G. Kirk, Senior Regional Director of GLL.

Mr. Kirk had begun by explaining that, as a worker owned, charitable social enterprise with an elected worker board, the interests of its people were represented at the highest level within the company. The nature of GLL’S business meant that it was organised primarily on a partnership basis and the company had a good record of working closely with Trades Unions in these local environments. He had highlighted the fact that the Trades Union forum in Belfast worked particularly well, with both GLL’s management and the Trades Unions being able to raise issues and discuss collectively, in order to reach a favourable conclusion for both parties. This arrangement had worked very well for the past seven years and had created very strong partnership working and outputs for staff under this model. GLL did not, therefore, see any reason for this to change.

Mr. Kirk had gone on to state that there was strong evidence in the outputs across the City, within staffing teams, that reinforced how successful the social enterprise partnership between the Council and GLL had been. There had been over 200 GLL promotions in recent years, which demonstrated an inward focus on staff and excellent delivery of learning and development opportunities. All of GLL’s staff had received an average 4% pay increase in April 2022, in recognition of the current cost-of-living challenges which many faced. In partnership with the Council, there had been seventeen leisure employment academies, resulting in over 100 local people gaining training and then employment within leisure centres. Alongside this, GLL had employed six graduates for its successful Trainee Manager programme, thereby ensuring succession planning for its future leisure leaders. It had also, twelve months ago, opened a customer service centre in Belfast, which had created 60 new jobs for local people. A further 25 new staff would be employed when the Templemore Baths opened in October, 2022.

He had added that GLL noted that, while at times there could be challenges, there was a healthy partnership created through the Trades Union forum, allowing items

to be resolved through collaborative working. He had concluded by stating that GLL looked forward to future staffing success in the year ahead and would address any issues that arose from the planned meetings.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Ferguson,  
Seconded by Councillor Heading

That the Committee agrees that a further letter be forwarded to GLL:

- i. expressing its dissatisfaction at the company's decision not to recognise Trades Unions, given the issues which workers are facing currently;
- ii. emphasising the fact that the ability to have their Trades Union recognised is an important right for workers; and
- iii. asking the company to reconsider its decision not to recognise Trades Unions, given the image which this sends to staff and the wider public on GLL's views on workers' rights in the workplace.

On a vote, thirteen Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

### **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

#### **Update on City Region Growth Deal**

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

##### **"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

- 1.1 **This report is to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), including a detailed update on progress to secure in excess of £7m of funding through the Complementary Fund to establish a Northern Ireland wide Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) which will help to address the financial barriers facing small businesses and social enterprises wishing to digitally transform.**

## 2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- i note that it is intended that the DTFF will operate on NI wide basis and be led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through its existing arrangements operating the Full Fibre NI Consortium;
- ii note the revenue costs associated with operation of the Fund, across a three-year delivery period as outlined in the appendix to the report. (There is no additional financial ask for the Council, as revenue costs identified have already been accounted for within existing Belfast Region City Deal budgets;
- iii approve the Council's participation in the DTFF, requiring the Council to join the FFNI consortium along with the other ten partnering councils currently members of this partnership and for revenue costs associated with the delivery of the project to commence from November 2022 to enable pre-development work to commence;
- iv note the update in relation to Belfast Stories and approve the extension for the Programme Director in line with the project timetable which will be financed from existing BRCD resources;
- v note the update in relation to the Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner;
- vi approve the contribution to Innovation City Belfast, which will be financed from existing BRCD resources; and
- vii note that the next meeting of the BRCD Council Panel will be hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on 28th September.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF)

- 3.1 As the Committee will be aware, supporting digital innovation is a key priority in the development of the spectrum of projects emerging through city and growth deals across Northern Ireland. The DTFF concept was initially



developed in response to the low levels of innovation and digital transformation taking place across the region - particularly among the small business community. The DTFF aims to address the financial barrier that small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform by establishing a capital grant fund that will support investment in the types of capital equipment considered critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions (e.g. hardware, software, bespoke system development).

- 3.2 To date, £6m of funding for this project has been ring-fenced through the NI City and Growth Deal Complementary Fund. The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has committed a further £1.1m. Due to its ineligibility for the Complementary Fund, engagement is ongoing with the Derry City and Strabane Growth Deal to secure an additional £450k to create a total capital grant fund of £7.5m.
- 3.3 Over the past six months, councils have participated in a robust process to develop the outline business case required to release this government funding. The business case has been informed by detailed and continuous engagement with a range of stakeholders including more than 40 businesses and organisations such as Digital Catapult Catalyst, Innovate UK, Intertrade Ireland and Invest NI. A review of best practice models - such as the Leeds City Region Digital Enterprise and the Scottish Digital Boost initiatives – has been used to supplement this work.
- 3.4 The preferred option for the delivery and management of the DTFF project is as summarised below:
- **Business Eligibility:** micro and small businesses and social enterprises (up to 50 employees) across all sectors, with the exception of primary agriculture and fisheries<sup>1</sup>. Eligible businesses must be able to demonstrate at least one year's trading history;
  - **Grant funding levels:** will range from £5,000 - £20,000 with a grant subvention rate of 70% of total project costs;
  - **Eligible expenditure:** will be limited to the purchase of capital equipment and/or resources for software or

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<sup>1</sup> Due to state aid challenges and wider interventions provided to these sub-sectors

**bespoke system development. It will be aligned to advanced digital technologies<sup>2</sup>;**

- Application Process: Up to nine funding calls will be opened across the three-year delivery period of this Fund. Pre application workshops will be held in local council areas in advance of calls to help stimulate demand. Businesses will be required to submit a digital transformation plan<sup>3</sup> to demonstrate the strategic fit and economic return of their proposed investment projects through a competitive application process. There is an imperative to progress the business case process at pace to ensure alignment with the Councils' Digital Surge programme<sup>4</sup> which is likely to lead to business plans that will require financial investment to which the DTFF is directly aligned to support. This current programme is due to end in March 2023 and it will be important to ensure that the DTFF is operational prior to the conclusion of this programme; and**
- Management of the Fund: the project will be managed on a cross council basis through existing governance structures created through the existing Full Fibre NI Consortium, led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Whilst the centralised management structure will deliver economies of scale for managing the overall fund, its operation will be managed through cross council governance structures. Local Council Economic Development Teams will play a key supporting role to animate and promote the Fund, assess funding applications etc.**

**3.5 The Full Fibre Consortium is an existing partnership initially established to support digital infrastructure delivery across Northern Ireland with ability to deliver additional digitally focused interventions which require cross council partnership working. At present Belfast City Council are the only local authority not engaged through this consortium, this was principally due to the fact that the council had proceeded with their own digital infrastructure arrangements at the time when the consortium was formed. Recognising the opportunity now presented through DTFF,**

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<sup>2</sup> Including; smart technologies (Internet of Things), process automation, big data and analytics, immersive technologies, artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies;

<sup>3</sup> Please note support to develop Digital Transformation Plans is currently available through Councils' Digital Surge Programme (led by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) equivalent plans are also provided through FE College intervention such as Innovate US.

<sup>4</sup> Digital Surge is a capability-building programme designed to support small businesses wishing to develop digital transformation plans,

it is recommended that the Council join this consortium to facilitate the delivery of this project, it should be noted that Legal Services have already reviewed partnership documents have confirmed that the DTFF project can be brought within the remit of this existing partnership and that mechanisms are in place for the Council to be added as a member.

- 3.6 In the delivery of this contract, the centralised project team based within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will undertake overall management of the project. The council's Economic Development Unit will support this activity and seek to maximise impact for local businesses by undertaking localised promotion, supporting the delivery of pre-application workshop sessions, participating on grant funding assessment panels and assisting businesses in receipt of funding to progress their onward innovation journey.

#### Outcomes

- 3.7 Based upon an average grant rate, it is estimated that approximately 600 businesses will be supported over the three-year delivery timeframe of the project, delivering significant investment in local businesses across Northern Ireland, with an expected return of investment of £1: £2.24, with expected benefits expected to be principally focused upon increased employment levels and/or turnover levels for participating businesses.
- 3.8 As with wider city and growth deal funding, both the Complementary Fund and DAERA funding are limited to capital expenditure creating the need for additional revenue funding to manage delivery of the Fund. The estimated total revenue cost for the eleven council partners for the preferred delivery option is approximately £870k over the three-year period. Members should be aware that, in identifying the preferred delivery mechanism, a range of options were explored including council led and procured delivery providers. The proposed council-led delivery model was identified to be the most cost effective, quickest to implement and benefited from a model of delivery where economies of scale could be achieved whilst retaining the ability to maintain localised engagement. The proportional cost allocation for each council have been informed by business population levels across Council areas. This is detailed within the attached appendix. The revenue cost contribution for the Council across the three-year period will be £165,312. The Council's contribution for this project has

already been accounted for within existing Belfast Region City Deal budgets so there is no additional financial ask.

- 3.9 Given the time pressures outlined above, councils are asked to commit revenue funding at risk, whilst the final stages of the business case approval process continue simultaneously in Autumn of this year. This will ensure sufficient resources are in place to support the business case process, as well as preparing for the delivery of the project including updating governance structures, development of detailed project plans and preparing funding processes to enable the project to mobilise quickly. Revenue funding will be required to support the project team required to deliver the project enabling vital pre-development work to be undertaken and ensuring the project can be mobilised in the January to March 2023 period, subject to a successful approval process.
- 3.10 The approval process for the business case requires Invest NI approval initially prior to progressing through departmental approval mechanisms. In the development of the business case ongoing engagement has taken place with government departments and Invest NI to inform the development of the business case. Equally the staged approval process will mean that in advance of the November timeframe when revenue costs are expected to be incurred by Councils 'at risk' there is expected to be reasonable progress made through the business case approval journey.

#### **Belfast Stories**

- 3.11 Members will be aware that Belfast Stories, the Council's flagship BRCD project, is due to open in 2028. Several important milestones in relation to the project have been achieved including the acquisition of the site in October 2021 and the press launch of Belfast Stories in December 2021 following the signing of the Deal. Public consultation across the city is underway and includes a Members' workshop in October 2022, with a date to be confirmed.
- 3.12 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed in November 2021 to progress a number of key pieces of work, in order to ensure that we meet the 2028 anticipated opening date, including the appointment of the integrated design team, the exhibition design team and the stories collection. Documentation is being finalised to procure these teams who should be confirmed in Q1 2023. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee received programme updates in February and December 2021 and in May 2022.

- 3.13 To deliver a project of this magnitude for the City and the region, it was necessary to recruit a Project Director to lead the development and delivery of the project. Members agreed this appointment in 2019 on a three year full-time fixed term contract, with the possibility of extension and / or permanency.
- 3.14 Now that the timescales for delivery of the project have been further established, the Committee is asked to approve the extension of the Project Director for 5 years in line with the proposed opening in 2028. This will be financed from existing BRCD resources.

**Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner**

- 3.15 The Committee is asked to note that the Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner has resigned from post, as of September 2022. Partners will be consulted in the coming months in terms of the role and way forward in order to align with the Innovation and Digital Pillar requirements for the next phase of the Deal and Members will be updated as this progresses.

**Innovation City Belfast**

- 3.16 Members previously agreed to contribute £50,000 to the overall programme budget for the development of the Belfast Innovation District proposition, as part of the work of Innovation City Belfast, in order to fund the necessary resources, staffing, and technical support required as part of a total ICB co-investment of £325,000.
- 3.17 Now that the partnership is established and is moving into the next phase, the Committee is asked to approve the contribution of £50,000 for the next phase. This will be financed from existing BRCD resources.

**BRCD Council Panel**

- 3.18 The next meeting of the BRCD Council Panel will be hosted as a hybrid meeting by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on 28th September, 2022. In addition to considering a detailed programme update, the Panel will receive a presentation on the i4C innovation hub that will be located at the St. Patrick's Barracks Regeneration site in Ballymena and on the work which is being undertaken to ensure that social value criteria are being integrated into future BRCD procurements and that social value benefits are then realised.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.19 All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.

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

- 3.20 Equality and Rural Needs Assessment screening has been undertaken for the DTFF project. The project has been designed to support inclusion by targeting smaller businesses who face barriers to engagement in digital transformation, the fund will also actively target businesses in rural areas in line with DAERA funding requirements.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Age Friendly Belfast Draft Action Plan  
2022 – 2026 Public Consultation**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

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

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan 2022-2026 and agree the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan to go to public consultation.

**2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan 2022-2026 [here](#) for public consultation in Autumn 2022.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**Background**

- 3.1 In 2012, the Council’s Reference Group on Older People provided the initial leadership to explore Belfast becoming an Age Friendly City, and, in May 2012, the Lord Mayor signed a declaration committing Belfast to this process. HASP coordinated delivery of two Age Friendly Belfast Plans in 2014-2017 and 2018-2021.

- 3.2 The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) coordinates the work of many organisations and agencies working with and for older people. HASP manages the development and implementation of the city's Age Friendly Plans on behalf of the Council and the wider Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.3 The draft plan will be issued for consultation in the Autumn, as part of October Positive Ageing Month, with a launch in December 2022/January 2023 and submission to WHO. An accessible version of the final plan will also be made available.

**Age Friendly Draft Plan 2022-2026**

- 3.4 The plan will retain the vision *A city where older people live life to the full.*
- 3.5 Consultation has identified the following four strategic themes and associated actions:

1. **Infrastructure/Getting out and about**

- Develop a joined-up approach to engagement and co-design with older people on local and city centre developments, led by Greater Belfast Seniors Forum, the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) and the Department for Infrastructure
- Develop age friendly design principles, which can be used to inform new infrastructure developments, led by Age Friendly Network NI and Belfast City Council
- Review and improve access to seating and toilets, led by Belfast City Council, Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure
- Raise awareness and provide training for bus drivers on the needs of older people using their services, led by Age Partnership Belfast

2. **Social Connections**

- Support recovery of groups/programmes with older people led by Age Partnership Belfast, Belfast City Council and voluntary and community sector partners
- Coordinate an Age Friendly Belfast annual programme of events/activities, led by BCC Age Friendly Co-ordinator, supported by a range of city partners

- Develop local connection hubs and a city centre hub where older people can meet each other and access information, led by Greater Belfast Seniors Forum
- Develop dementia carers cafes in all four dementia friendly neighbourhoods, led by Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood groups and supported by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Develop a recruitment drive to encourage older people to re-engage in volunteering, and to recruit new volunteers. Promote initiatives to manage and support older people's participation in volunteering, led by Volunteer Now

### 3. Health and Wellbeing

- Work with Greater Belfast Seniors forum to link with GP representatives and multi-disciplinary teams to ensure that the voice of older people is heard in discussions on access to services led by Age Partnership Belfast
- Support 600-800 older people (most in need) to improve their mobility levels and to feel more connected and less lonely, led by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, supported by BHDU. (This is the older people's priority for the refreshed Belfast Agenda)
- Promote key messages and connect older people's programmes that seek to increase their strength and mobility, including fall prevention, led by Age NI and Public Health Agency
- Involve Older people in the development of the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' approach, led by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

### 4. Financial Security/Cost of Living

- Work with older people to provide information and support on financial security in a way that is easy to understand and navigate.
- Review and support the wider policy level work on food and fuel poverty
- Offer access to employment support and employment for those aged 50+, led by Belfast City Council



**Employability and Skills Team/Belfast Labour Market Partnership**

- **Promote and support the Age at Work approach to recruit, retain and retrain workers aged 50+, led by Business in the Community.**

**3.6 The plan is written in the context of recovery from Covid-19 and includes some lessons learned from the Covid-19 response, which include:**

- **The Covid-19 response demonstrated at scale and pace, a whole-system approach to supporting vulnerable populations. The response tested new approaches to joint working across sectors at both the strategic / policy setting level and the operational / neighbourhood level. Whilst the scale and urgent timing of response is different, lessons from this joint working are needed to help the most vulnerable citizens in Belfast on an ongoing basis and particularly in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.**
- **Neighbourliness thrived during Covid-19 with many local services identifying and supporting older residents to a much greater extent than prior to the pandemic. Older people value the services and amenities in their local areas, they mostly feel safe there and they are often able to access all the goods and services they require. This desire to use local provision should inform how service providers engage and provide services for older people.**
- **During Covid-19 new approaches to befriending and connecting people developed and learning from these approaches have been shared through Age Friendly Belfast partners.**
- **Living with Covid-19 restrictions showed the resilience and adaptability of older people's groups. This included increased use of technology and moving to using outdoor spaces for meetings and events. The various methods of engaging should be considered when developing future services and programmes.**
- **Loneliness has always been a key concern for, and about, older people in the city, and this was exacerbated by Covid-19. This has placed a focus on mental health and wellbeing which should continue to be a priority.**

**Links to the Belfast Agenda**

- 3.7 The new plan will operate over four years to align with Belfast Agenda, which includes 'Older People' as one of its cross-cutting themes.
- 3.8 The draft Belfast Agenda Review has potential to support the Age Friendly Belfast plan through some of the following priorities:
- **Connectivity, Sustainability and Active Travel** - improve cycle and walking lanes and improve use of sustainable transport
  - **Housing led Regeneration** - increase affordable housing supply
  - **Health Inequalities** - promote, improve, and support mental health and emotional wellbeing, and increase levels of physical activity and reduce obesity
  - **Future City Centre** - facilitate a clean, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive city centre
  - **Inclusive Growth** - better understand issues/drivers of those in poverty and develop action plans to address issues

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.9 There is a small budget from Belfast City Council and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to deliver actions in the Age Friendly Plan. Funding has also been secured through the Public Health Agency to appoint an Age Friendly Co-ordinator until March 2025 in line with the other council areas and this officer will co-ordinate delivery of the plan.

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

- 3.10 **None – EQIAs and RAIAs have been completed.”**

The Committee approved the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan 2022-2026 for public consultation.

**Dual Language Street Signs Policy**

The Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services submitted for the Committee's approval the final version of the revised Dual Language Street Signs Policy. The revised wording reflected the updated approach to carrying out Equality

and Good Relations assessments, as agreed by the Committee on 17th June, and related primarily to the fact that each application would, in the first instance, undergo an 'initial assessment' for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations or rural needs, rather than an 'equality screening'. The Policy had been live since the Committee's decision had been ratified by the Council and over 500 applications had been received to date.

After discussion, the Committee approved the final version of the Dual Language Street Signs Policy for publication on the Council's website and agreed, in response to a request from a Member, to initiate the process for the erection of dual language signage at Páirc Nua Chollann.

### **Sustain Exchange Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report seeking approval for the Council to enter into a funding agreement, to the value of £10,000, with the organisers of a climate business conference being planned for Belfast, to enable further information to be provided on other potential funders.

## **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

### **Asset Management**

The Committee approved the extension of the current term of the ground lease at Plot 24, Balmoral Estate to a term of 125 years, from 2022, with the Council to receive a single premium payment of £8,000 and approved also the variation of the user clause to include commercial use as a permitted use.

### **Update on Physical Programme**

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Committee's consideration 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 movements on the Capital Programme for Alleygating Phase 5 and City Hall Stained Glass Windows.**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the following proposed movements on the Capital Programme:**

- **Alleygating Phase 5 Project - agree the proposed list, as attached, and that the project be moved to *Stage 3 - Committed*.**

- City Hall Stained Glass Windows project - agree that the project be moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the Outline Business Case to be developed.

**3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1** The Committee 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 that 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, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.

**Proposed Movements – 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 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 movements on the Capital Programme:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Stage movement</b>
<b>Alleygating Phase 5</b>	Next phase of the alleygates programme	Move to Stage 3 - Committed
<b>City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community</b>	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.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the Outline Business Case to be developed

### Alleygating Phase 5

- 3.3 In August 2022, the Committee agreed to move Alleygating Phase 5 to a *Stage 2 - Uncommitted* project on the Capital Programme. The Council has delivered four phases of the alleygating programme to date across the city which has seen the installation of 1081 gates, with both Council funding and funding from external funders. As part of the 2021/22 rate setting process, Members will recall that £500,000 has been made available for Alleygating Phase 5 across Belfast. Following the August decision, each Area Working Group has now had an opportunity to consider and recommend gate locations.
- 3.4 The Committee is asked to agree that:
- The list of streets set out below (proposed and reserve) be taken forward under Phase 5 of the alleygating programme, as recommended by the Area Working Groups;
  - Alleygating Phase 5 is moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* under the Capital Programme. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agreed that a maximum of £500,000 be allocated, and
  - The necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

### City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community

- 3.5 A Strategic Outline Case has been completed and an Outline Business Case will now be worked up on the City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT community project and presented back through internal governance and Committee approval process.

### Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.6 *Financial* – Alleygating Phase 5 - £500,000 under the Capital Programme. *Resources* – Officer time to deliver as required.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

ALLEYGATING PROGRAMME - LIST OF STREETS

WEST BELFAST

- Dunlewey Street, Clonard Street, Waterford Street, Harrowgate Street, Hawthorn Street, McQuillan Street and Finn Square
- Mizen Gardens, Lenadoon Ave, Kerrykeel Gardens and Glenveagh Park
- Springfield Road, Cupar Street Upper, Iris Drive, Kilmore Close and Dunmore Street
- Locan Street and Amcomri Street
- Islandbawn Street
- Beechview Park
- Mayo Street and Caledon Street
- Colinmill Road
- Distillery Street, Burnaby Walk, Ladymar Court, Ladymar Grove and Ladymar Park
- Downfine Gardens

Reserve List

- Workman Avenue, Woodvale Avenue, Cuan Parade and Fort Parade

NORTH BELFAST

- Allworthy Avenue and Hillman Street
- Oldpark Avenue, Avoca Street, Summer Street, Roseleigh Street, Oldpark Square, Foyle Court and Rosepenna Street
- Deacon Street, Seaview Street, Parkmount Street, Northwood Parade, Northwood Drive and Northwood Crescent

- Atlantic Avenue and Glandore Avenue

Reserve List

- Cliftonville Parade, Cliftonville Street, Cliftonville Drive
- Stephen Street and Kent Street
- Seaview Street and Parkmount Street
- Hesketh Gardens

*SOUTH BELFAST*

- Botanic Avenue
- Shaftesbury Avenue
- Fernwood Street, Walmer Street, Deramore Avenue, Rushfield Avenue, Deramore Street
- Wellesley Avenue
- Roden Street, Empire Drive

Reserve List

- Wolseley Street
- Gipsy Street, Primrose Street, Agra Street and Jameson Street
- Hugh Street

*EAST BELFAST*

- Rosebery Road, Ravenhill Avenue, Toronto Street, Delaware Street
- Jocelyn Street, Clara Street
- Rosetta Park, Knockbreda Road
- Reid Street

Reserve List

- Richard Street, Watt Street
- Jonesboro Park and Beersbridge Road

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that a report on the next steps in the alleygating process, including a potential timeframe for delivery, be submitted to its next meeting.

### **Update on Area Working Groups**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the South Belfast Area Working Group of 22nd August, the West Belfast Area Working Group of 25th August, the North Belfast Area Working Group of 30th August and the East Belfast Area Working Group of 8th September, including the following recommendations:

#### **South Belfast Area Working Group**

- to approve a request from the Urban Villages Initiative for a specific and total allocation of £584,167 for the Arts and Digital Hub project, to enable the release of a Letter of Offer.

#### **West Belfast Area Working Group**

- to reallocate £750,000 which had been set aside for the Shankill Mission project (which was no longer viable) as follows:
  - i. Berlin Swifts and Greater Shankill Community Council (Legion) Projects – to meet the funding deficits on both projects, with up to £113,000 to be allocated to Berlin Swifts and the final budget allocation for the Greater Shankill Community Council project to be agreed once the tender has been returned;
  - ii. £50,000 to be allocated to a small-scale environmental improvement project for the Shankill Road; and
  - iii. in terms of the remaining allocation, to examine a number of other proposals in Woodvale Park, namely, MUGA upgrades and the development of a sensory garden, with further detail to be brought back to the Working Group in due course.

#### **North Belfast Area Working Group**

- that the remaining allocation of £71,413, which had become available from the underspends within the Cancer Lifeline and Grace Family Centre projects, be allocated to the Cavehill Tennis Club for capital works relating to floodlighting and pitches.

#### **East Belfast Area Working Group**

- that representatives of Castlereagh Presbyterian Church be invited to the next meeting of the Working Group and that a further site visit be undertaken, and
- to undertake a site visit to the Templemore leisure facility, as it moved into the completion stage.



**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2021-22**

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

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

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2022.

1.2 The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

1.3 The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, which can be accessed from the Council website [here](#), have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 02/22 dated 7th January, 2022 and 23rd March, 2022.

1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

i approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2022; and

ii agree that this report should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests given that the statement of accounts must be published by 30th September, 2022.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**Normal Approval Process**

- 3.1 The Committee will be aware that the normal approval process allows for the Statement of Accounts to be presented to the Audit and Risk Panel to allow them to review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council prior to this report going to the SP and R Committee.**

However, the Audit and Risk Panel was postponed on 13th September, in line with agreed protocol for the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The meeting has now been reconvened for Wednesday 21st September, at which the Statement of Accounts will be discussed, any issues raised by the panel will be verbally reported to this Committee.

**Audit Opinion**

- 3.2 It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:**

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2022 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and
- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and

- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 is consistent with the financial statements.

### Reserves

#### 3.3 General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £62,218,726 (of which £48,145,477 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

Opening Balance	£54.9m
In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 7.3m</u>
Closing Balance	£62.2m
Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£48.1m</u>
Balance Available	<u>£14.1m</u>

#### 3.4 Capital Fund £12,220,031

The Capital Fund is made up of:

- Belfast Investment Fund (£1,368,532) - created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources
- Local Investment Fund (£800,741) to fund smaller local regeneration projects
- City Centre Investment Fund (£7,688,069) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans
- Social Outcomes Fund (£2,362,689) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment.

#### 3.5 Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund £10,000,000

This fund is to support neighbourhood regeneration and tourism projects in local neighbourhoods.

**3.6 Leisure Mobilisation Fund £621,287**

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

**3.7 Capital Receipts Reserve £1,068,583**

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

**3.8 Other Fund Balances and Reserves £1,731,811**

This relates to the Election Reserve (£735,037) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£703,151) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£293,623) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

**3.9 Debt**

The overall level of trade debtors had increased this year from £5.2m at 31st March 2021 to £7.1m at 31st March 2022. Whilst the COVID 19 pandemic had an impact on overall debt levels, the main reason is an increase in public authority debt at year end. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

**Table 2: Analysis of Trade Debtors**

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
Less than three months	£5,450,710	£3,963,319
Three to one year	£1,070,718	£481,307
More than one year	£553,310	£772,373
Total	£7,074,738	£5,216,999

**3.10 Creditors**

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 71,202 invoices totalling £187,290,662.

The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 17 days for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Council paid 57,882 invoices within 10 days, 66,649 invoices within 30 days, and 4,553 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

**3.11 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)**

The Statement of Accounts includes an Annual Governance Statement for the year 2021/22, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically, the Annual Governance Statement sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- update on the significant governance issues from prior year
- significant governance issues to be disclosed for current year

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

**Financial and Resource Implications**

**3.13 None**

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

**3.13 None.”**

After discussion, during which the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that the Audit and Risk Panel, at its meeting on 21st September, had agreed to recommend to the Committee that it approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March, 2022, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Update on Contracts**

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders, as per Standing Order 37a, as detailed in Table 1 below;
- approved the award of the Single Tender Action, in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions, as detailed in Table 2 below;
- approved the modification of the contract, as per Standing Order 37a, as detailed in Table 3 below; and
- noted the award of the retrospective Single Tender Action, in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions, as detailed in Table 4 below.

**Table 1: Competitive Tenders**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Proposed Contract Duration</b>	<b>Estimated Total Contract Value</b>	<b>SRO</b>	<b>Short description of goods / services</b>
Installation of solar reflective film to glazing system to all bar / restaurant areas within the Waterfront Hall 3 levels including glazed roof	Up to 10 weeks	£100,000	S. Grimes	Required to reject the solar heat and glare during summer months.
Technical Professionals providing in-depth technical research and guidance to help Digital Services advance the initiatives/projects that support execution of the IT strategy  *Previous approval Aug 22 for £53k but revised total now £92k	Up to 2 years	£92,000	R. Cregan	*Use proven Reference Architecture to develop technology Architecture *Receive organisation-specific guidance through calls with analysts *Leverage industry best practices to avoid costly mistakes *Enables Digital Services to stay current with changing markets and technologies

Procurement and implementation of Qlik Sense SaaS application, along with support and maintenance for Qlik Sense, QlikView, Nprinting and GeoAnalytics	Up to 3 years	£185,000	R. Cregan	The current support and maintenance contract for the Council's on premise Qlik applications is up for renewal on 30/11/2022
Collection and treatment/recycling of mixed materials from recycling centres to include timber, hard plastic, plasterboard and paints and varnishes *Previously approved May 2022 for £2m but revised total now £2.6m to include additional waste streams (i.e. plasterboard and paints and varnishes)	Up to 4 years	£2,600,000	C. Matthews	To ensure the Council's waste is disposed/ recycled in line with current environmental legislation, best practice and circular economy principles.
Contract for the placement of planning notices in the local press	Up to 5 years	£120,000	K. Bentley	Fulfilment of statutory obligation to advertise planning notices under Article 8 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
Hire of grounds maintenance equipment with operator	Up to 3 years	£100,000	C. Matthews	Hire of a range of specialist grounds maintenance equipment with operators primarily to support pitches and bowling greens maintenance
Procurement of consultancy team to develop an Outline Business Case for the Innovation for Societal Impact Challenge Fund under the Belfast Region City Deal's Digital Pillar  *Tender previously	Up to 12 months	£125,000	J. Tully	An Innovation for Societal Impact fund is a key element of the overall suite of BRCD (City Deal) Innovation Challenge Funds as outlined in the digital pillar Programme Business Case.

approved in June 2022 for £100k and up to 6 months				<i>An option now included to extend the contract for a further 6 months and further £25,000, if required</i>
Develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) for a £20m risk capital, Venture Fund, funded by the Belfast City Region Deal  *Tender previously approved in June 2022 for £50k and up to 3 months	Up to 9 months	£60,000	J. Tully	An equity debt fund is a key element of the innovation Challenge Fund as outlined in the digital pillar Programme Business Case.  <i>An option now included to extend the contract for a further 6 months and further £10,000, if required</i>
Design contest to support the delivery of Belfast Imagining 2024	Up to 22 months	£2.5m	J. Greer	Use the competitive Design Contest process to seek out and develop proposals from the market to support the delivery of civic and culturally led programmes, events and projects for Belfast Imagining 2024. The £2.5m will include the payment of prize monies to applicants to develop their proposals and the award of subsequent service contracts to deliver the successful projects.
Supply of tractors, support services and spare parts  (Initial purchase of new tractors over next 2 years plus ongoing support services and parts over life of tractors - estimated 10 years)	Up to 12 years	£160,000	C. Matthews	Replacement of tractors that are past end of life/ operational use and are now uneconomical to continue to maintain. New contract will include replacement tractors via open



				competition and ongoing support services and spare parts.
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**Table 2: Single Tender Action**

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
<p>Procurement of a Local Area Energy Plan for Belfast and Queens Island *Fully funded</p> <p>*STA previously approved in August 2022 for £110k but revised total value is now £180k due an additional £70,000 funding has become available. The contract is not yet awarded.</p>	Up to 6 months	£180,000	J. Tully	The Local Area Energy Plan approach is bespoke to Energy Systems Catapult. Energy Systems Catapult is the only supplier in the market who has the experience, knowledge and capability to provide this service.	Energy Systems Catapult

**Table 3: Modification to Contract**

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T1795 - Provision of portage services	Up to 5 years	Additional 3 months and £10,000	N. Largey	Modification required to extend the current portage contract whilst the new tender process is carried out	Delivery Services and Storage Ltd
T1846 - Collection and treatment of mixed waste	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months and £75,000	C. Matthews	The extension is required to bring T1846	MacNabb Bros. and R. Heatrick Ltd.

materials (Timber and hard plastics)				timber and hard plastics into line with the expiry dates for the plasterboard and paints and varnishes contracts (30/11/2022)	
T1990 (b) - Cinematography for PEACE IV programme services	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months	S. Toland	Modification required to facilitate the completion of the project	Morrow Communications
T1858 - PEACE IV – Supporting Connected Communities	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months	S. Toland	Modification required to facilitate the completion of the project	NI Alternatives

**Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Action**

<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>SRO</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
T2286 - Provision of largescale outdoor event  *STA previously approved in April 2022 for £60k but revised total value is now £100k (Fully funded)	Up to 2 months	£100,000	J. Greer	An initial STA was agreed in line with Service Level Agreement with Tourism NI which named Belfast International Arts Festival as the supplier of exclusive artistic product.	Belfast International Arts Festival

**Other Single Tender Actions**

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
 Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the request to approve the award of the following Single Tender Actions, in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions, to enable further information to be provided on the supply of parts/components, warranty support and specialist repairs.

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Fiat Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) approved parts and components, warranty support and specialist repairs	Up to 4 years	£40,000	C. Matthews	<p>To ensure that FIAT vehicles being used by the Council have only approved OEM parts and components replaced in all safety related vehicle areas on a like for like basis in keeping with the vehicle manufacturer terms and conditions.</p> <p>The supplier has the sole distributor rights for these OEM parts and services for Northern Ireland and therefore the only suitable supplier.</p>	FIAT Donnelly Group

Mercedes Benz Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) approved parts and components, warranty support and specialist repairs	Up to 4 years	£60,000	C. Matthews	To ensure that Mercedes Benz vehicles being used by the Council have only approved OEM parts and components replaced in all safety related vehicle areas on a like for like basis in keeping with the vehicle manufacturer terms and conditions. The supplier has the sole distributor rights for these OEM parts and services for Northern Ireland and therefore the only suitable supplier.	Mercedes Benz Truck and Van
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On a vote, eight Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was declared lost.

The Committee then agreed, with ten Members voting for and eight against, to approve the award of the two Single Tender Actions.

### **Equality and Good Relations**

#### **Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 20th September, including the recommendations:

#### **PEACE IV**

##### **Secretariat**

- to note the request for an Expression of Interest from the Special European Union Programmes Body for funding up to £100k for Good Relations activity and to recommend to the Committee that the Council should not submit an Expression of Interest, given current pressures.

### **Building Positive Relations**

#### **BPR3**

##### **Transform for Change – NICVA**

- to approve a request to progress payment of 30% of the NICVA contract end payment in line with the deliverables completed and supporting evidence that has been submitted; and
- to approve, in principle, an extension to November 2022 for the delivery of community led Action Plans.

#### **BPR5**

##### **LINCS**

- to extend the project to 30th November, 2022 to allow for a closure event to take place.

##### **Traveller Support Project**

- to approve a further extension until the end of October, 2022 to allow for the completion of all elements of the Traveller Support project.

##### **Morrow Communications**

- to approve an extension to 31st December, 2022 to allow for a closure event to take place.

### **Good Relations**

- to note the request for the Partnership to engage with Rubicon Consulting in the development of the Audit;
- to approve the request to invite Dr. Lucy Michael to the next meeting of the Partnership to present the draft findings of the research on the lived experience of ethnic minority communities in Belfast; and
- to approve funding of £10,000 to Duncairn Community Partnership for the Interactive Trail project in Alexandra Park, subject to no recurring costs under the Good Relations Action Plan.

### **PEACE PLUS**

- to approve the updated stakeholder engagement plan and key milestones for developing the plan.

**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 15th September.

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations in respect of those applications received up to 9th September, as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2022 EVENTS</b>						
Volunteer Service, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	24th October 2022	<b>BHSCT Volunteers Recognition Event</b> – for their time, energy and expertise support existing services in a wide variety of roles improving the patient and carer experience for our service users.  Numbers attending – 80	C	Charge should be £115 in line with criteria but waiver due to Freedom of City for NHS	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality
RNIB (NI)	24th November 2022	<b>Launch of Research findings</b> “Barriers to Employment for people with sight loss NI”  Numbers attending – 150	A	No charge - Complimentary as Charity	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality
Groundwork NI	30th November 2022	<b>Young Women – Leaders of Tomorrow programme</b> - celebration for students from Belfast Model	C	No charge - Complimentary as Charity	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee  
Friday, 23rd September, 2022**

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4249**

		School and Holy Trinity College on completion of their programme  Numbers attending – 60				
<b>2023 EVENTS</b>						
QUB Architecture Society	27th March 2023	<b>Architecture Gala Ball –</b> Celebrating a year of new architects who are crucial for in the future for enhancing the city's image through the built architecture around us.  Numbers attending - 300	B	Yes	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Bray Leino Events	18th April 2023	CyberFirst Dinner - with speeches and after dinner entertainment for guests attending a 3 day conference.  Numbers attending - 150	A & B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Belfast Pride	21st July 2023	<b>Belfast Pride Launch and Pride Awards –</b> LGBT Community awards ceremony. Drinks reception followed by Awards presentation.  Numbers attending – 350	D	No charge - Complimentary as Charity	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality

**Minutes of Meeting of Language  
Strategy Working Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Language Strategy Working Group of 26th August.

**City Hall – Design of Carson Tile**

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval of the preferred design for the Carson Tile in the Rotunda area in the City Hall.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation from the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August on the proposed design for the Carson Tile to be installed in the Rotunda in City Hall as being Option 3, as pictured in paragraph 3.3 below.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**Carson Tile**

**Background**

**3.1 In November 2012, the Council received an independent Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) relating to the City Hall and City Hall grounds. This EQIA was carried out in accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Council's Equality Scheme. This EQIA underpinned the decision to relocate memorabilia into the exhibition, allowing it to be seen and understood in a different way. Whilst the relocation of the artefacts and memorabilia from various parts of the City Hall into the exhibition space addressed the issue of the City Hall itself, in terms of the EQIA, the EQIA also applied to the City Hall grounds, in respect of which no steps have been taken to address the report's findings that there is a need to provide a contemporary image of the City, reflective of its vibrancy and diversity.**

**3.2 At the time when the relocation of memorabilia to the exhibition was agreed, there was, as part of that arrangement, a commemorative tile to be installed marking**



the place at which Sir Edward Carson stood when he signed the Ulster Covenant. HED approval is required for this and following ongoing discussions with HED it has been agreed that this will take the format of a tile within the Rotunda area. The SP and R Committee was updated on this at its meeting in May 2021 and approved approve the installation of a plaque with the final design to be agreed. This was referred to the City Hall Installations Working Group for further consideration. HED have subsequently confirmed that marble is the preferred material for installation.

- 3.3 The City Hall Installations Working Group has considered three options for the design of the Carson Tile which will be installed within the Rotunda in the City Hall. The designs considered are set out below:



- 3.4 Three Members expressed a preference for Option 3 (the design on the far right), while two Members expressed a preference for Option 1 and one for Option 2.

The Committee is, therefore, asked to endorse the recommendation of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August on the proposed design for the Carson Tile as being Option 3. This will enable this to proceed to final design in advance of manufacture and installation.

#### Financial and Resources Implications

- 3.5 Following confirmation of final concept, a detailed design can be produced which will include final costs for manufacture and installation.

**Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs  
Assessment**

- 3.6 Installation of Carson Tile contribute to meeting the recommendations of the EQIA City Hall and City Hall Grounds in ensuring Council achieves a greater balance in terms of the persons who are depicted or represented within the grounds.”**

The Committee agreed to proceed with Option 3, as set out within paragraph 3.3 of the report.

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

(The Committee had, earlier in the meeting, within a separate report, adopted the recommendation of the Working Group to adopt Option 3 as the design of the Carson tile to be placed in the Rotunda area of the City Hall.)

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August.

**Minutes of Meeting of Audit and Risk Panel**

The Committee noted the key issues which had been discussed at the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel on 21st September and approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting.

**Request to Present**

**Queen’s University/Ulster University**

The Committee approved a request for representatives of Queen’s University and the Ulster University to attend a future meeting to highlight the role of Purpose-Built Managed Student Accommodation in Belfast.

Chairperson