

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 8th June, 2012

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Alderman M. Campbell);
Aldermen Browne and R. Newton; and
Councillors Attwood, Convery, Corr, Haire, Hanna,
Hendron, Jones, Lavery, Maskey, McKee, McCarthy,
Ó Muilleoir, A. Newton and Reynolds.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Mac Giolla Mhín and McVeigh.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 15th and 18th May 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 June, subject to the rejection of the decision under the heading "Applications for the Use of the City Hall for Events Associated with the Decade of Centenaries"; the Council accordingly approved the use of the City Hall by the 36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Association for an event to mark the formation of the Young Citizen Volunteers of Ireland.

Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was reported:

- (i) Councillor Hanna declared an interest in respect of Item 3(b) Requests for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality.

Review of the Council's Policy on the Publication of Reports

Following a number of concerns expressed by Members in relation to the publication of reports on the internet and the timeliness of the receiving of hard copies by Members, the Chief Executive undertook to submit a report thereon to the Committee in August.

Transforming Your Care - A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland- Request to Present to Committee

(Mrs. S. Toland, Head of Environmental Health attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee was reminded that, in December, 2011, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety had published a document entitled: "Transforming Your Care: A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland", which proposed far reaching changes to the delivery of health and social care over the next five years. The report contained ninety-nine recommendations for improvements in the quality of care and required a shift of resources of £83 million across Northern Ireland from hospital to community-based services. It would include an investment of £70 million in transitional funding to enable the new model of care to be implemented. It recognised that quality must be improved within a fixed budget.

The Head of Environmental Health explained that crucial changes would include the extension of personalised care, enabled through the holding of care budgets by clients themselves, the establishment of Integrated Care Partnerships, involving General Practitioners, Community Pharmacists, Health and Social Care Trusts, other agencies and the community and voluntary sectors. One of the opportunities was the ability to access funding for the development of new facilities in the community, thus building on the current network of health and wellbeing centres. That would allow General Practitioners to co-locate with nursing, social work, therapists, pharmacists, advice centres and others to work in an integrated way.

The Belfast Local Commissioning Group and the Belfast Trust had been asked to lead the development of a Population Plan for the City which would deliver the new model in partnership with all those who had made a contribution to health and social care. The Plan must be submitted by 22nd June and Mr. Iain Deboys, the Commissioning Lead, had now requested an opportunity for representatives of the Group and the Trust to present initial proposals to the Council before then. Accordingly, given the light agenda and the timescale for the production of the Plan, representatives of the Trust and the Local Commissioning Group were in attendance.

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation and Ms. C. McNicholl and Messrs. C. Donaghy and I. Deboys were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

With the assistance of visual aids, Mr. Donaghy outlined the rationale for the production of the Plan in the proposed timescale. He reviewed the health challenges in Belfast at the present time which included, inter alia, the low health outcomes in Belfast due to deprivation, an ageing population, lengthy stays by some people in hospital environments, the changes in the workforce and outdated facilities which were not fit for purpose. He then outlined the opportunities which existed in Belfast including a commitment to work in partnership and leadership through the Belfast Strategic Partnership; a recognition that Health and Social Care could not address many of the health issues on its own; and a diverse range of community and voluntary agencies which provided vital support at local level.

Mr. Donaghy then reviewed the key elements of the Population Plan which included the following:

- a greater involvement of service users in service-design and contracting for care in a mixed economy;
- the mobilisation of the diverse community and voluntary sectors in the City in a partnership approach;
- direct targeting of prevention and support to those most in need;
- single contact points for those who needed support and clear pathways to that support;
- an integrated approach in which General Practitioners, nurses, social workers, therapists, pharmacists and other sectors and partners worked co-operatively together to meet the needs of the individuals;
- more locally-based services, with rapid response and assessment from hospital-based services when required, to reduce the need for admission;
- no hospital-based continuing care for long stay patients with a mental illness or learning disability;
- greater family support and fewer children in residential care;
- a greater range of supported housing as an alternative to residential homes for older people;
- a higher proportion of midwife-led births;
- a greater choice for those who wanted to end their days at home;
- proposals for a range of new facilities; and
- the need for hospitals to become more specialised.

In conclusion, he stated that there required to be a shift in resources from a primary care model to also supporting a community supported model and that while the needs would continue to grow the budget would not, therefore, there was a need to get more from the system and be clearer about what the Trust could provide.

The deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members in relation to General Practitioner hubs, consultation and engagement for the Population Plan, the opportunity to work with the Council as part of its local investment fund and the current and future arrangements for accident and emergency services in Belfast.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the members of the delegation for attending and they retired from the meeting.

Noted.

Council Accommodation - World Trade Centre

The Committee was reminded that, at the Annual Council Meeting of 1st June, the following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Attwood:

“This Council agrees that it should build its own corporate headquarters which would incorporate a World Trade Centre.”

In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Motion stood referred without discussion to the Committee.

It was pointed out that, prior to the Motion being referred to the Committee, the papers for the meeting had already been circulated and included a report on an Office Accommodation Strategy and it would be more appropriate for the Motion to be considered in that context.

The Committee agreed that the Notice of Motion be considered in the context of the aforementioned report which appeared later on the agenda.

Review of Public Administration

Review of Public Administration Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Since the last update provided to the Committee in May 2012, there has been a number of further developments in regards to the Local Government reform process, as outlined below, which Members should be made aware of.

2.0 Key Issues

2.1 Reform Implementation Structures

2.1.1 The Environment Minister, Alex Attwood is pushing ahead and putting in place necessary governance and implementation structures to take forward the local government reform process including:

- Regional Transition Committee - a political forum representing the 11 new councils (including the Chair of SP&R) and supported by CX advisors (including the Chief Executive)**

- **Regional Transition Operational Board** - acting in a programme management board capacity and comprising senior central and local government officials including the Chief Executive. The inaugural meeting of this group took place on 24 May 2012. Whilst DoE will issue an official minute of the meeting, which will be circulated to Members, an internal note of discussions has been circulated.
- **Task & Finish Working Groups** – nine established to take forward specific operational workstreams. DoE has recently written to all councils setting out the high-level remit for each of the Working Groups, outlining initial proposals on membership and seeking any additional nominees from councils (see Appendix 2). Clearly it will be important that the Council is engaged in these operational groups and inform the work as it is taken forward. The groups and proposed BCC officer nominations are set out below:

<u>DoE Task & Finish Working Group</u>	<u>Proposed Chair</u>	<u>BCC Led Officer</u>
1. Transfer of Functions	Peter McNaney, CX Belfast (Chair)	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
2. Human Resources	Linda MacHugh Director of Local Government Policy, DoE	Jill Minne, Head of HR
3. Finance	Ian Maye, DoE Deputy Secretary, planning and Local Government	Ronan Cregan, Director Finance & Resources
4. Legislation	Angus Kerr, Planning Policy, DoE	Ciaran Quigley, Town Solicitor & Assistant Chief Executive
5. Pilots & Community Planning	Anne Donaghy (CX Ballymena)	Suzanne Wylie, Director of H&ES
6. Delivery Programme	Linda MacHugh, Director of Local Government Policy, DoE	Ronan Cregan, Director Finance & Resources
7. Communications	Teresa Donaldson (CX Craigavon)	Eamon Deeny, Head of Corporate Communications
8. Systems Convergence	Liam Flannigan (CX Limavady)	Paul Gribben, Head of ISB
9. LG Reform Joint Forum	Paul O'Brien, APSE	Head of HR

2.1.2 Each of the working Groups have been asked to initially consider and scope the range of issues which need to be progressed and to develop a work programme to delivering these. The Committee will be kept fully informed as this work the groups evolves and any associated implications for Belfast City Council; with Members direction sought as appropriate. Members will note that a detailed work programme setting out the Councils approach to delivering local government reform will be submitted for consideration and the next Committee meeting on 22 June.

2.2 Legislation

2.2.1 **Statutory Transition Committees:** It is understood that the Environment Minister has asked officials to explore the options available to fast-tracked legislation which will bring effect to 'Statutory' Transition in Autumn this year instead of delaying until April 2013 as initially intended. Having a statutory footing would enable Transition Committees to progress important convergence issues within their respective council clusters linked to a clear programme of work. This is more of significance to those council clusters who may not be fully engaged at present.

2.2.2 In terms of the Belfast 'Statutory' Transition Committee, there will be representation from Lisburn and Castlereagh albeit this will reflect the areas to transfer to Belfast. As previously instructed by the Committee, correspondence has been issued to Lisburn and Castlereagh outlining the Council's desire to engage at an early stage in discussions regarding a number of important transition issues.

2.3 Funding Reform

2.3.1 It is understood that the Environment Minister is currently considering submitting a bid as part of the NI Executive's June monitoring round to secure some element of funding to kick-start the reform programme and to support transition related activities linked to the Transition Committees.

2.4 Communications

2.4.1 A communications plan is currently being developed to underpin the Council's approach to reform and to ensure that elected Members, staff and citizens alike (including those new citizens coming into the City from Lisburn and Castlereagh) are keep fully informed and engaged in the process as it moves forward.

2.4.2 The DoE are also putting in place a communications framework which seeks to ensure greater transparency of process and regular progress updates. Attached at Appendix 3 is a recent DoE local government reform circular which outlines the current position of the reform programme.

2.5 Transfer of functions proprietary pilots

2.5.1 As previously agreed by the Committee, there have been progressive and constructive discussions between council officers and senior officials from DSD, DoE and DRD to explore and scope out potential opportunities for integrated proprietary pilot initiatives.

2.5.2 Pilot initiatives will provide an opportunity to learn through action, help to develop new working models and build institutional capacity among the key stakeholders in planning and regeneration within the city. It will avoid 'reinventing wheels' and smooth the future transfer of functions to the Council. Pilots will be a critical part of the process of capacity building and changing the way people and institutions act. They will essentially be test beds to develop and refine practical working arrangements while gaining buy in from and building confidence among all parties (e.g. departmental officials, councillors and council officers).

Pilots should examine how planning, regeneration and roads can be brought together at the local level to support existing council ambitions in regards to Place Shaping (e.g. local physical, economic and community development), aligned with the new community planning powers, to deliver enhanced outcomes and improve quality of life. A detailed report setting out the potential options will be submitted for the consideration of the Committee in August 2012.

2.5.3 In addition, the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Social Development has written to the Chief Executive, copy attached, advising him that the Department have initiated a review of the future structure and functions of the five Area Partnerships established by the Department in the City, and seeking input at an official level to inform the conversation given that the RPA will transfer regeneration functions to the Council and that the Council will be responsible for community planning. It is recommended that officers be authorised to input into these discussions subject to a clear indication being given to the Department that these inputs will be purely factual in nature and that emerging options will have to be forwarded to the Council for political input and direction.

4.0 Resource Implications

The detailed implementation plan to be submitted to the Committee on 22 June will set out the resource and capacity requirements attached to the Council's continued engagement and work relating to the established reform implementation structures and related Working Groups as well as delivering our own internal programme of work.

5.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- (i) **note the proposed officer nominations onto the DoE operational Task & Finish Working Groups**
- (ii) **note that a detailed implementation plan will be submitted for the consideration of the Committee at its next meeting;**
- (iii) **note that a further report on potential transfer of functions preparatory pilots will be submitted for the consideration of the Committee in August 2012; and**
- (iv) **to authorise officers to input factual information into the DSD review of Area Partnerships subject to the condition that emerging policy options will have to be brought to Committee for political direction and input."**

During discussion, it was suggested that more input was required by Elected Members into the Local Government Reform process and, in addition, there could be a more significant role for the Council.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that the Task and Finish Working Groups were officer based as they would be focusing on the technical details of a wide ranging number of subjects in order to identify all the key operational issues which should be considered as part of the Reform process. However, all recommendations made or reports considered by those Groups would be considered by the Members through the Council's voluntary Transition Committee and the political decisions agreed upon would be forwarded to the Regional Transition Committee. He pointed out also that he was proposing to submit a report to the Committee in September which would examine and make proposals for broader engagement between the Council and other Statutory Bodies and suggestions for formal political oversight.

After further discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Democratic Services and Governance

Change of Dates of Meetings

The Members were reminded that a schedule of meetings for the Standing Committees was produced at the commencement of each Calendar Year. The Democratic Services Manager explained that the two meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee were normally scheduled for the first and third Friday of each month. However, there had been occasions when the meetings had been re-scheduled due to the workload of the Committee or for other reasons.

The Democratic Services Manager suggested that, in order to assist the decision-making process and align with the work of the Area Working Groups and the voluntary Transition Committee, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meetings scheduled for August and November be put back one week and that the following timetable apply:

- Friday, 10th August at 10.00 a.m. (instead of 3rd August)
- Friday, 24th August at 10.00 a.m. (instead of 17th August)
- Friday 9th November at 10.00 a.m. (instead of 2nd November)
- Friday, 23rd November at 10.00 a.m. (instead of 16th November)

The Committee agreed to the revised Schedule of Meetings for August and November.

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

The Committee considered the undernoted requests for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality which had been received:

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
British Council	IAESTE Annual Conference 2013 Dinner 24th January, 2013 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Rathbone	NEET (Not in Education or Employment Training) Awards 9th October, 2012 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event aims to recognise and reward the achievements of young disadvantaged people from all communities who have undertaken training and education activities to help them with employment opportunities. The event will also highlight the work of Rathbone in promoting strong, fair communities and the support provided to young people in seeking appropriate job skills and employment opportunities. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £250

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Police Service of Northern Ireland	<p>Policing with the Community Awards</p> <p>12th October, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 250 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event aims to recognise and reward the outstanding work which has taken place between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and communities and partners to help make Northern Ireland safe, while listening to the needs of the communities and helping to increase confidence in the Police Service.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
Congo Support Project	<p>Congolese Evening</p> <p>30th July, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 70 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event aims to promote diversity by highlighting the positive contribution that the Congolese community can make to Belfast and contribute to a shared future in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This event, which will also coincide with the anniversary of the Independence of the Democratic Republic of Congo, will showcase the history and culture of the Congolese people through poems, music, dance and songs.</p> <p>This event will conclude with the opportunity for open discussion between the different communities represented which will foster a shared understanding of the Congolese culture.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £175</p>

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Ulster Bank Festival at Queens	Launch of Fifty years of Belfast Festival 4th September, 2012 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will launch the Belfast Festival at Queens now in its 50th year. The Festival seeks to involve the community in appreciating cultures from across the world. It is a flagship event that provides focus for economic growth through the development of destination tourism, hospitality and the entertainment industry. The Festival aims to provide a strong, positive identity for Belfast, showing the world this is a mature, vibrant cultural capital and fostering a real sense of pride and ownership within communities at home. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £625
Concern Worldwide	Launch of Concern Worldwide's Hunger Project 20th September, 2012 Approximately 80 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will launch Concern Worldwide's 'Hunger Project' which seeks to reposition the organisation around the issue of 'hunger' in developing countries through a public facing campaign that will help raise awareness of the organisation and the initiative. This event will also provide a platform for Concern Worldwide to say thank you to the people of Northern Ireland for their continued support. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and of 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £400

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research	13th Congress Welcome Reception 6th September, 2012 Approximately 85 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £425
National Association of Funeral Directors NI Federation	National Association of Funeral Directors Conference Dinner 5th October, 2012 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500

Congo Support Project

A Member sought clarification in relation to the above-mentioned event and whether it was intended to be a celebration of the Independence of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In response, the Democratic Services Manager undertook to seek clarification in respect of the matter and, if required, submit a further report to the Committee's meeting on 22nd June.

The Committee agreed to this course of action and adopted the remaining recommendations.

Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff

The Committee was reminded that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff were normally reviewed annually. The established practice had been that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances should take into account increases in the cost of living by increasing the allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that last year it had referred consideration of the matter to the Budget and Transformation Panel. That Panel had been provided with three options which were to increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index as at 1st May (4.5%), increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the District Rate increase for that year (2.95%) or not to increase the allowances for the year. The Panel had decided to recommend that the Committee should not increase allowances for the 2011/12 year.

The Committee, at its meeting on 17th June, 2011, had adopted the recommendation of the Budget and Transformation Panel and, accordingly, the Lord Mayor's Personal and Entertainments Allowances for that year were maintained at £34,800 and £25,900 respectively and the Deputy Lord Mayor's and the High Sheriff's Personal and Entertainments Allowances had remained at £6,250 and £735 respectively.

The Democratic Services Manager requested that the Committee consider which of the following options should be adopted in relation to the allowances to be paid to the Civic Dignataries for the 2012/13 year:

- Option 1 – No increase in the civic allowances for the 2012/13 year;
- Option 2 – Increase the allowances by 3%, in line with the Consumer Price Index as at 1st April; or
- Option 3 – Increase the allowances in line with the District Rate increase for the 2012/13 year at 2.6%.

The Committee agreed to adopt Option 1.

Finance/Value-for-Money

Request for Funding – Common Purpose Belfast

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Common Purpose Belfast seeking funding of £6,000 from the Council in connection with its 2012 Navigator Programme. The money would be used to offer three part-funded places on the Programme for emerging leaders from non-profit organisations in Belfast. Last year, the Council had funded participants from UnLtd Belfast (a charity supporting social entrepreneurs), the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children and EXTERN. The Programme was designed to draw together local leaders, emerging leaders and senior managers from all walks of life who could potentially play a role in shaping the future of Belfast. The Council had supported Common Purpose Belfast since its inception in 1996.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that the application could be considered in the context of Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which provided the Council with miscellaneous powers to make payments for special purposes. He indicated that the application met the criteria for funding in that regard.

Accordingly, it was

Resolved – That expenditure in the sum of £6,000 for the Common Purpose Belfast Navigator Programme be approved under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and bring direct benefit to, the District and inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefits so accruing would be commensurate with payments to be made.

**Super-Connected Cities:
Business Briefing Event**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th January, it had agreed that the Council would lead on the bid to access money from the Government's Urban Broadband Fund. As part of the proposals to access the funding, the Council had submitted a bid to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in February, 2012, showing how it would use super-connected status to drive forward growth, with particular focus on employment zones and city-wide high-speed mobile connectivity. At this stage, the Council had been guaranteed £6 million to deliver the project but could receive up to £13.7 million.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, as part of a promotional campaign, the Council would host in the City Hall on Monday, 11th June at 9.30 a.m. a "Super-Connected Belfast Business Briefing" event, to which all Members had been invited to attend. The purpose of the event would be to inform the business sector of the Council's plans to roll out ultrafast broadband and wireless services across the City and to explain what that meant for the businesses. He outlined the content of the event and the speakers and the numbers which were expected to attend.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Use of Mobile Technology

The Committee considered a report in relation to the use of mobile technology and agreed that a business case be developed and submitted to the Committee in August.

**Tender for the Provision of
Insurance Brokering Services**

The Director of Finance and Resources sought the Committee's permission to re-tender the insurance brokering service. He indicated that the contract would be awarded for a period of two years, with the evaluation criteria being based on both cost and quality. He explained that, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, the contract would be awarded by himself to the most economically advantageous tender received. He pointed out that, as the Council was now required to use the "restricted" tender procedure for insurance services, the new contract would need to be awarded by 31st October, 2012. To facilitate that, the existing supplier had agreed to revise the expiry date of the existing contract from 31st December, 2012 to 31st October, 2012.

The Committee approved the commencement of the tender exercise for the provision of an insurance brokerage service as outlined.

Human Resources

(Mrs. J. Minne, Head of Human Resources, attended in connection with these items.)

Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Order 55 and the authority delegated to him, the Director of Finance and Resources had authorised the appointment of members of staff related to existing officers of the Council.

Noted.

Corporate Investors in People

"1 Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to advise the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that following a recent Council wide assessment, Belfast City Council has achieved Investors in People as an organisation.

The Investors in People (IIP) framework has been a key element of the Council's Organisational Development work – we have used the framework to help build the capacity of the organisation through its people management in order that we are better placed to deliver Members' priorities.

Two corporate mock assessments led by HR and an external assessor and supported by the council's internal reviewers were undertaken, the findings of which were translated into departmental improvement plans. A corporate HR and departmental HR partnership group was set up to ensure that the actions agreed in the plans were progressed.

The Council applied for corporate IIP in April 2012 and an external assessment against the IIP framework was carried out during the week commencing 23rd April. Approximately 200 interviews were carried out with elected members, the Chief Executive, chief officers, managers, staff, trade union representatives and the corporate HR and departmental partnership group.

2 Key Issues

Following an in depth assessment the assessors are satisfied that the council meets the requirements of the Investors in People National Standard and recommends that Belfast City Council be recognised as Investors in People organisation.

The assessment report states that a total of 39 evidence requirements were assessed and met from the core standard and an additional 6 evidence requirements were assessed and met from the wider framework. A total of 45 evidence requirements altogether were met.

The following are some of the key issues highlighted from the feedback. (A full copy of the report can be made available to Members from the Human Resources Section upon request.)

- *The profile of Belfast is changing and Belfast City Council is at the centre of the excellent work which is being done to make the city one of the world's most popular venues.*
- *The Investment Programme represents an exciting challenge which will help transform the lives of ratepayers, visitors and those working in the City.*
- *To support the Investment Programme a comprehensive OD strategy is being implemented and there are clear signs of a change in culture and outlook amongst staff at all levels of the organisation.*

- *The Core Skills Programme makes excellent use of internal experience to expose colleagues' real life Council related learning. Participants acknowledge the CX's commitment to the programme, often conducting the opening session, setting the programme in context.*
- *Staff, generally are proud to work for the Belfast City Council and are rightly proud of the various events which have helped raise the profile of Belfast on the world wide stage.*
- *Generally Belfast City Council is regarded as a 'good employer' as endorsed not only by the service profile of personnel but also when relatively recently appointed staff compared it to their former employer.*
- *Need to continue to improve communications and management consistency.*
- *The excellent work that the organisation does in supporting learning and development is sometimes undone by a lack of systematic process to acknowledge people's successes.*
- *There were isolated examples of people management related issues which could be better communicated and managed.*

Next steps

As an Investor in People organisation we have demonstrated our strong commitment to the development and success of our people and a desire to continually improve and grow. It is a significant achievement and we wish to celebrate our success and share the credit with Council staff. HR will now work with Corporate Communications to plan an event to present the award and to undertake the relevant communications around our staff's achievement.

A full analysis of the findings will be undertaken and action plans will be updated to keep the momentum going around our people improvement framework which is a key aspect of our Organisational Development work.

3 Resource Implications

Any resource implications will be met from existing budgets

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

N/A

5 Recommendations

To note that Belfast City Council has been recognised as an Investors in People organisation.

To recognise the contribution of the Council staff who worked to make this happen.

To note that the work around our people improvement framework will continue as a key part of our Organisational Development work.

To note we will fully communicate and publicise our success and arrange an event in the City Hall to facilitate the presentation of the award.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and commended the Head of Human Resources and her staff on the achievement of the Corporate Investors in People Accreditation.

Asset Management

Improved Security Measures – City Hall

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided details of improved security measures to the City Hall following two security breaches which had occurred in 2011.

Office Accommodation Strategy

The Committee considered a report which outlined the rationale and the key drivers which reinforced the need for the Council to develop an Office Accommodation Strategy. This included the need for the Council's land and property assets to be managed strategically, the identification of accommodation as an emerging project in the Council's Investment Programme, the Efficiency Programme, the development of the 'Green Economy' in Belfast, the Review of Public Administration, the future delivery of Council services, the break options on existing properties leased by the Council for accommodation, flexible working, the property market and the potential to utilise the Council's World Trade Licence.

Accordingly, it was proposed that an economic appraisal and options report be undertaken to fully identify the drivers, objectives and cost implications of an accommodation strategy, with the options report recommending the way forward. Options which would be considered were likely to fall into four categories, that is, do nothing, lease and/or purchase, develop or shared delivery.

The Committee agreed that an economic appraisal and options report be undertaken in respect of the Council's office accommodation.

Smithfield Market Units Update

In accordance with the authority delegated to him, it was reported that the Director of Property and Projects had let the following unit at Smithfield Market:

- Unit 35 – Jiani Li, 6 Irwin Crescent, Belfast at a cost of £500 per month for use as a bead shop and for jewellery making classes

Noted.

Forum for Alternative Belfast, 2012 Summer School - City Hall

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Forum for Alternate Belfast to hold a Summer school in the City Hall from Monday, 13th till Friday, 17th August, 2012.

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Forum was a not-for-profit organisation which campaigned for a better and more equitable built environment in Belfast. The Forum had been launched formally on 4th June, 2009 by a group of architects, planners and others who came together to explore the alternative ways that the City might be developed. He pointed out that the Forum for Alternative Belfast had held three successful Summer schools in recent years. In August, 2009 the outcome of the school was the "Missing City" map which clearly identified the empty land in the centre of Belfast. The following year the week had concentrated on the inner City centre and last year it had concentrated on South Belfast and a long standing plan of the Roads Service to build a road potentially severing South Belfast from the City centre.

The Director of Property and Projects reported that in the Autumn of 2011 both the East and West Belfast Partnership Boards had held discussions with the Forum about the 2012 Summer School. It had been agreed that the school would look at both East and West Belfast and the connections to the City centre. The study area reached as far as Templemore Avenue in the East and Dunville Park in the West. Due to the subject matter and the Council's relationship with the Partnership Boards, the Forum sought to hold the Summer School in the City Hall.

The Committee approved the request from the Forum for Alternative Belfast to hold the Summer School in the City Hall in August, 2012.

Passchendaele Commemoration Event

The Committee was advised that a request to organise a short Lambeg drum and fyfe whistle demonstration, following a wreath-laying event at the Cenotaph, City Hall on Saturday, 28th July, 2012, had been received from the Laganvillage Somme Society.

The wreath-laying service to commemorate the Battle of Passchendaele had been taking place at the Cenotaph for a number of years. The service, which normally took place on the last Saturday of July, commemorated the role which had been undertaken by the 36th (Ulster) Division and the 16th (Irish) Division at Passchendaele.

A Member indicated that his Party was content to agree to the use of the City Hall grounds for the event at this stage. However, they would be meeting with the organisers to discuss issues around the parade route to and from the City Hall and the engagement with local residents groups. Depending upon the outcome of that meeting his Party might have to review its decision when the matter was before the full Council for ratification on 2nd July.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request from the Laganvillage Somme Society to have a short Lambeg drum and fyfe whistle demonstration in the grounds of the City Hall on 28th July, 2012 following a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Developing Belfast as an Age Friendly City

(Mrs. Adele Faulkner, Environmental Health Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 **Relevant Background Information**

1.1 **The Council has identified older people as a key priority under its theme of ‘Better support for people and communities’.**

1.2 **In Belfast 19.65% of the population is currently over 60 and it is estimated that by 2030 25% of people in Belfast will be over 65 years of age. As a city we must plan for an ageing society and adopt our structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with their varying needs and capabilities.**

- 1.3 The World Health Organisation (WHO) has established a global Network of Age Friendly Cities that encourage active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people grow older. The WHO has produced a guide and checklist to help cities assess themselves from the perspective of older people and identify how they can become more age friendly. If a city meets this list of criteria and makes an application to the WHO it can be awarded 'Age Friendly' status.
- 1.4 Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) through its 'Framework For Action to address life inequalities 2011- 2015' highlights the opportunity to achieve an age friendly city and improve healthy and active aging. It also recognises the role of the Healthy Aging Strategic Partnership (HASP) to lead on a joined up approach to plan and deliver services for older people. HASP will form part of the mechanism for this delivery, support posts for the partnership are part funded by the Council.
- 1.5 On 23rd March the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the Council should sign the 'Age Friendly Declaration', the first formal step in the process towards Belfast becoming an Age Friendly City. This decision was ratified by Council on the 2nd April 2012. The Lord Mayor signed the Declaration at the Senior Citizens Convention in the City Hall on the 15th May. The Declaration commits Belfast to participate in the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly cities and commence a 5 year cycle of continuous assessment and improvement to make Belfast more age friendly.
- 1.6 Under the direction of the Older Peoples All Party Reference Group, an initial baseline study was commissioned to establish how age friendly Belfast currently is and what needs to be done to enable Belfast to make an application to WHO for Age Friendly Status. The baseline assessment was made against the 8 WHO age friendly criteria and was made from the perspective of the 103 older people (from the seniors forums) who participated in the consultation event held in Belfast Castle in early March. This study is now complete and the report is attached in Appendix 1.

The initial study identified the main priority areas for improvement in the city for older persons to be:

1. Community and health services, followed by
2. Transportation, and
3. Housing.

The report also provides information on the aspects of each criterion that older people think are done well or need to be improved. Given the successful feedback from the Older people conference in City hall on the 15th May there was further views and ideas expressed which will be fed into the initial study. Further, it recommends how Belfast City Council should use this information and the steps to be taken to create an Age Friendly City.

2 Key Issues

2.1 **Belfast City Council has committed to participate in the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly cities and commence a 5 year cycle of continuous assessment and improvement to make Belfast a more age friendly city.**

2.2 **The baseline study of 'Belfast as an Age Friendly City' recommends the following next steps:**

2.3 Develop Consultation Methods

More extensive consultation is required to develop the baseline further and seek the views of those who may not be represented through the existing senior's forums. These are likely to include groups such as carers, care and nursing homes and men who may be particularly isolated.

2.4 Produce a detailed technical report and action plan

A second more detailed technical report will have to be developed following wider consultation and review of data and literature. This will enable BSP to agree a 3 year action plan and identify indicators which can be submitted to WHO for review and endorsement.

2.5 Establish an annual Age Friendly Summit

Following the award of Age Friendly Status BSP should hold an annual age Friendly summit which should build on and replace the current Annual Senior Citizens Conventions.

2.6 Establish an Age Friendly Steering Group and governance arrangements

In order to develop an age friendly city the different sectors and organisations across the city, including the voluntary sector and those representing older people, must plan and work together. Belfast Strategic Partnership, incorporating the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership could deliver such a

collaborative approach as it is a key area of work within its Framework for Action. HASP are supportive of this approach and will make a proposal to BSP on Governance arrangements on the agreement of this Committee.

Updates on progress will be provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee via the older people All Party Reference Group.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 It is anticipated that Belfast City Council's contribution will be delivered within existing budget estimates. Staff from Belfast Health Development Unit, and HASP which is part funded by council, will support this project. Money from the older people's thematic budget may be used to organise events and carryout further research etc. BSP will be asked through the paper from HASP to provide additional staff and financial support as necessary.

4 Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider the attached report on the baseline study of 'Belfast as an Age Friendly City' and agree the next steps towards Belfast being recognised by the WHO as an 'Age Friendly City'; and
- (ii) Agree that the Belfast Strategic Partnership should provide the Governing Structure for the Age Friendly Approach and support HASP in a collaborative approach to deliver Belfast as an Age Friendly City.

Key to Abbreviations

BSP – Belfast Strategic Partnership
HASP – Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership
WHO – World Health Organisation”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Consultation - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust:
A Consultation Proposal to Reshape Maternity Services in Belfast

The Committee was reminded that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust was undertaking a consultation exercise in relation to a proposal to reshape maternity services in Belfast and agreed that the matter be referred to the individual Political Parties for individual consideration and response.

Chairman