

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

7th September, 2017

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 13th September, 2017 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Restricted Items

- (a) City Centre Investment Fund Update (Pages 1 - 2)
- (b) Belfast Infrastructure Plan (Pages 3 - 6)
- (c) Belfast Bikes Update (Pages 7 - 22)

3. Request to present to Committee

- (a) Active Communities Network and Sport Changes Life (Pages 23 - 26)

4. Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

- (a) City Centre Living (Pages 27 - 30)

5. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

- (a) Recruitment of Operational Director posts - Place and Economy Department (Pages 31 - 34)
- (b) Car Parking - Income Generated (Pages 35 - 40)
- (c) Operational Amendments to Christmas Lights Switch-On and St. Patrick's Day (Pages 41 - 44)

6. **Positioning Belfast to Compete**

- (a) MIPIM 2018 and Marketing Belfast Update
- (b) Visit by Lord Mayor of City of London (Pages 45 - 50)
- (c) Conference Tourism: Economic Impact and Future Growth (Pages 51 - 54)
- (d) European Capital of Culture - Update (Pages 55 - 60)
- (e) International Relations - Update (Pages 61 - 70)

7. **Growing Businesses and the Economy**

- (a) Other Voices Proposal (Pages 71 - 74)
- (b) Employability and Skills Framework: Council Support for Economic Inactivity (Pages 75 - 84)

8. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) CG&R Financial Report - Q1 2017/18 (Pages 85 - 94)

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Subject:	Belfast Bikes Review Update
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Maggie McNally, Strategic Programme Manager Anne Doherty, Planning and Transport Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the initial stages of the strategic review and actions approved by Committee at its meeting on the 9 th August 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the update on the business case; Agree proposed actions to improve security of the scheme and reduce vandalism; Consider the recommendations for the pricing review and if appropriate agree for implementation; Approve the procurement process for sponsorship contract;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree recommendations for relocation of docking stations subject to a report being brought back to SP&R for consideration; and • Note the ongoing promotional activities.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>At the Committee meeting in August 2017, Members agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an update on the business case to provide Members with the revised investment level going forward; and • consideration of options aimed at reducing the level of investment. The proposed options include the following: a review of membership charges; a review of existing station locations; and recommendations to improve security and reduce vandalism costs.
	<p>Update on Business case</p>
3.2	<p>Members will be aware that the annual investment in the Belfast Bikes scheme has been higher than projected in the original business case. The annual investment by the Council in Year 1 was £179k and in Year 2 it was £215k. Although income from membership subscriptions and usage charges increased in Year 2 by 16.5 %, (Year 1 - £115K and Year 2 - £134k), operational and management costs increased due to additional stations being added to the network and an increase in maintenance charges due to vandalism.</p>
3.3	<p>The business case used to inform the Council's projections was commissioned by the Strategic Investment Board and published in 2012. At the time, bike share schemes were in their infancy in the UK and Ireland and information on the transparency of costs and income was not widely available. In recent years, bike share schemes have expanded rapidly in the UK and in the regional cities in Ireland and experience shows that they require some level of public sector investment. Funding models differ between cities however, the level of investment in the Belfast scheme is similar or lower than other comparator cities. For example, Dublin City Council contributes around €376,000 per annum towards the operating cost of the Dublin Bikes Scheme.</p>
3.4	<p>The level of investment in the scheme for 2017/2018 financial year is set at £209k. Members requested that options to reduce the level of investment from Year 3 onwards were investigated and brought back to the Committee for consideration. The options are considered in the following sections.</p>

3.5	<p>Review of membership options and pricing</p> <p>This section outlines the potential to increase income from reviewing subscription and usage charges and amending terms and conditions in order to reduce the Council’s level of annual investment.</p>
3.6	<p>Subscriptions and usage</p> <p>The income from current subscriptions and usage is derived from annual membership (£20), 3 day casual membership (£5), usage charges for journeys over 30 minutes and late return charges. The rates were agreed at Committee on the basis that the level of charges were affordable to ensure the scheme will remain accessible to low income users and to encourage sustainable travel for short journeys.</p>
3.7	<p>Following the review and feedback from the elected Members’ workshop, the following recommendations are proposed for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of pricing options and the potential impact on membership and growth rates were considered as shown in Appendix 2. It is recommended that Option 2 - Increase annual membership fee by £5 to £25 is the preferable option. <p>The small increase could contribute to the future viability of the scheme and allow smaller-scale expansion to be considered in the future. A similar annual membership fee increase of €5 was introduced for the Dublin Bikes scheme in February 2017 and feedback from Dublin City Council showed no notable decline in membership renewals. The Belfast Bikes scheme is now an essential part of member’s daily commute and it is considered that the slight increase of £5 would not deter renewal of membership, however a £10 increase may have a negative impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase casual membership by £1 to £6. <p>This small increase could also contribute to a rise in revenue to secure the future viability of the scheme. The fee is considered still good value for money for casual users and should not deter customers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a new ‘pay as you go’ option. <p>Many schemes around the UK and Europe offer a ‘pay as you go’ fare option as it allows individuals who visit the city infrequently to make use of the scheme without committing to an annual membership or casual membership. It is considered that this new tariff would open up a new market of day trippers, overnight leisure and business travellers. Recent research (May 2017) on tourism numbers in Belfast indicated that there were around 1.5million overnight trips to Belfast in 2016. Research suggests that the most popular activity by “out of state” visitors to Belfast was to have a walk around the city</p>

(71% according to the same study) and this could easily translate to cycling. The new proposal could open up a revenue stream at weekends when the usage of the scheme is low and day trips to Belfast are high. The proposal would be £1.00 per 30 minutes and potential users will still be required to register their details. This may be more attractive to day trip visitors and students who currently do not use the scheme due to cost of subscriptions.

- **Amend terms and conditions to remove the condition to allow casual members the ability to rent additional bikes on one account.**

The terms and conditions for annual and casual membership allow customers to rent an additional 4 bikes for friends and family without charging a registration fee, however there is no free 30 minutes for these rentals. This is a benefit offered for membership and can be used by a tourist to allow friends or family accompanying them to use additional bikes on one account. The breakdown from the operator does not provide the figures on how often this is used but it is proposed that it should be removed from the casual members' accounts to encourage more casual subscriptions. It is proposed to retain the benefit for annual members as it would be difficult to amend. Acceptance of the terms & conditions is required by annual members when they first register and it is not required again for renewal.

3.8 It is proposed to retain the 30 minutes free period and subsequent level of usage charges for annual and casual members for a number of reasons:

- this is a standard feature for Bike Share schemes to encourage usage; and
- a majority of journeys on Belfast Bikes are less than 15 minutes duration.

See Appendix 2 for charging rates for other bike share schemes.

3.9 If approved by the Committee, these recommendations will require an update of the information on docking station terminals and this will have an associated cost. However, rather than replacing information panels on the station terminals, low cost options will be considered. The website update and changes to the terms and conditions for casual users can be implemented without incurring significant additional cost. A programme of communications will have to be undertaken by the Council's Communication Officer to ensure that all users are aware of the changes. It is also recommended that any changes to the pricing policy are put into place for the new 18/19 financial year.

3.10	<p>Sponsorship</p> <p>Sponsorship income has provided substantial financial support towards the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Belfast Bikes scheme. The sponsorship contract for Belfast Bikes was awarded to Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland Limited over a 3 year period from the operational commencement date (27th April 2015).</p>
3.11	<p>The value for Phase 1 (300 bikes & 30 docking stations) was placed at £100,000 for annual sponsorship. It was subsequently agreed that Coca-Cola would provide an additional sponsorship payment at the same rate for Phase 1a (£333 per bike for the 30 extra bikes) with the caveat that the sponsorship fee will be capped at £110,000 per annum for the remaining two years of the contract.</p>
3.12	<p>The sponsorship of the Belfast Bikes scheme is a unique and highly beneficial sponsorship opportunity for an organisation. It provided Coca-Cola HBC with an unparalleled brand presence which stands out from the cluttered advertising environment in Belfast and an exclusivity of being associated with a high profile sustainable public transport system with high visibility on the streets. There is also a high level of primary and secondary coverage through press, TV, radio, and online through social media of being associated with the scheme.</p>
3.13	<p>The contract is due for renewal in April 2018 and it is considered that this is a significant opportunity to secure an increase in revenue from sponsorship. There are a number of options for sponsorship going forward which are outlined below for consideration:</p> <p>Option 1 – Secure one sponsor for the scheme with the exclusivity of being associated with the scheme. Similarly to the existing contract, one Sponsor would secure the naming rights for the scheme and exclusivity to branding of all the assets.</p> <p>Option 2 – One sponsor secures the naming rights for the scheme but not exclusivity to branding of all the assets. Additional sponsorship income could be sought for naming rights on the individual terminals, for a minimum number of bike panels, website and promotional material. This option will allow local companies to partner with the bike scheme through sponsoring a terminal near their business or by purchasing a number of bike panels.</p>
3.14	<p>Dublin Bikes sponsorship contract was recently due for renewal and they have secured a contract with ‘Just Eat Ireland’ which is at a higher value than their previous contract with</p>

3.15	Coca Cola Ireland. Feedback from Dublin City Council indicated that there was significantly greater interest for the second tendering exercise of their sponsorship contract which resulted in a bidding process between two companies.
3.16	It is recommended that the Council proceed with the procurement process for the sponsorship of Belfast Bikes whilst offering the more flexible options outlined above.
3.17	<p>Relocation of Docking Stations</p> <p>The relocation of docking stations with low usage was proposed as an opportunity as part of the scheme development at the recent elected members' workshop. This approach would allow a better deployment of the existing resources to increase usage and membership income without increasing the management cost. It should be noted that the relocation of stations can only be considered for the 30 stations funded under Phase 1 located in the core city centre area. DfI funded the 30 stations included in Phase 1 and they have agreed in principle that underused stations could be relocated to areas with potentially higher demand. Docking stations included in Phase 1a and Phase 2 were part funded by external organisations such as Queen's University, Belfast Trust, organisations located in Titanic Quarter area and DfC in order to service their facilities or the Building Successful Community areas and therefore cannot be considered for relocation. Appendix 1, Table 1 identifies the funding source for each docking station.</p>
3.18	<p>The following criteria has been used to shortlist potential Phase 1 stations for relocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low rental and return history over the two and half years of operation (see Appendix 1, Figure 3) • close proximity to alternative stations (see Appendix 1, Figure 2) and; • station removal will not create a gap in the supporting network see (Appendix 1, Figure 2). <p>Using the above criteria, the following stations are proposed for relocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smithfield – Winetavern Street Rationale – the station has consistently the lowest monthly usage of the Phase 1 stations. Low footfall and lack of destinations are the most probable explanation. There are nearby stations at Royal Avenue and Carrick Hill. • Dunbar Link This station also has low usage. There are close alternative stations at Cotton Court and Cathedral Gardens and therefore it is recommended for relocation.

- Writers' Square
This station also has low usage. There is a very close alternative station at Cathedral Gardens.
- North Street
This station has low usage and there is a close alternative at Cotton Court.
- East Bridge Street / Stewart Street
This station was originally selected in order to provide additional capacity for the Central Station location, however it experiences low usage. There are close alternative stations at Lanyon Place, May's Meadow and Cromac Square.

3.19

It should be noted that docking stations at Carrick Hill and Millfield also have low usage but have not been considered for relocation as the removal would create a gap in the supporting network.

3.20

Proposed new locations

The rationale for selecting new locations is based on the following:

- feedback from the Belfast Bikes survey;
- number of requests from the public;
- areas of high residential density or footfall;
- form part of a supporting network;
- close proximity to cycling infrastructure; and
- Scheme members' feedback.

3.21

The following new locations are recommended:

- 1 station on the lower end of Ormeau Road in the vicinity of Ormeau Bridge / Ormeau Park;
- 1 station mid-way on Ormeau Road in the proximity of Ulidia playing fields and local shops and restaurants; and
- 1 station in the vicinity of Rosetta roundabout and Ormeau Road/Ravenhill Road junction.

The Ormeau Road area received the largest number of requests for expansion during the Belfast Bikes survey and also receives a large number of requests through social media and by email. The area has a dense residential population and student population and is located close to the National Cycling Network along the tow path.

- 1 station at the Stranmillis Roundabout

The Stranmillis Roundabout is in close proximity to Stranmillis College, the National Cycling Network along the towpath and dense residential and student areas.

- 1 station located at Catalyst Inc

A large number of requests have been received from organisations located in the business park to locate a station in the vicinity. The area is not well connected by public transport and a bike station is viewed as a method to improve access to this location by sustainable travel.

3.22

Cost Implications

There is a cost of around £6,000 per station to relocate docking stations. Options for partnership support are being sought to contribute to these costs.

3.23

Vandalism and Theft

A number of security measures have been investigated in order to reduce vandalism incidents relating to the bike scheme infrastructure. Several bike docking stations have been identified in partnership with the operator for the potential introduction of CCTV. In advance of progressing this, a number of issues need to be considered:

- partnership permissions required for erecting cameras; and
- opportunities to tie in with existing CCTV systems i.e. investigation of additional camera at Girdwood that will feed an existing circuit.

A CCTV working group is being set up to consider CCTV usage across Council facilities. It is recommended that above measures and the associated costs are considered in partnership with this group.

3.24

Signage

A variety of low cost security signage and interim measures such as imitation cameras could be implemented as a deterrent to vandalism. The estimated costs for the signage is £800 This can be funded from the existing Development Department budget. Other measures will require further consideration.

3.24

Partnership working

PSNI representatives have confirmed that there has been a renewed commitment from the Crime Team to look at Bike Theft in the City Centre area as part of 'Operation KENFET'. This is an ongoing initiative aimed at reducing bike theft with a focus on the Belfast Bike Scheme. Recently, several arrests have been made with cases being brought to the Public

3.25	<p>Prosecution Service. The PSNI Crime Team has a number of other operations planned that will hopefully lead to more arrests and developments over the next weeks. There have been meetings with the PSNI Crime Prevention team in regards to future locations.</p>
	<p>The Belfast Bikes team is also working in partnership with the Council's Community Safety Wardens and several community groups. A number of events have been planned to engage with young people in the most affected areas.</p>
3.26	<p>Improvement of system</p> <p>There is ongoing engagement with the operator NSL and the system provider Nextbike to improve the system and to make the bikes and the stations more durable. New improved bicycle parts have been ordered and will be tested over the coming weeks. The Belfast Bikes are also being used as a pilot for the Smart Cities IPedal project where devices are installed on a number of bikes to collect data. This has the potential to be used for locating bikes that are missing from the system through theft or misuse.</p>
3.27	<p>Promotional Activities</p> <p>The Belfast Bikes team is tying in promotional activity with various events over the coming months including Cycle to Work Day (13 September), Freshers' events at QUB and Belfast Met, Titanic Quarter.</p>
3.28	<p>In 2016, Culture Night was the third busiest day of the year with in excess of 1,110 rentals. Building on this, it is proposed to capitalise on this development in 2017 and promote the bikes as a great way to get around the various activities. The team will also get involved in some of the bike-related events on the night.</p>
3.29	<p>24 September will see the third Ciclovía Belfast event in Belfast, where part of the city is closed off to traffic to give cyclists the opportunity to ride through the traffic-free zone en masse. To celebrate this popular event, usage fees on the Belfast Bikes will be waived between 9.30am and 12.30pm to encourage people to use the bikes for the event. If successful, there will be an opportunity to explore the Cycle Sunday initiative with a fee-free period one Sunday per month.</p>
3.30	<p>Officers are also working with public sector bodies and the business community to offer the promotional stands at staff events and presentations to inform employees about the scheme with a view to increasing subscription levels and usage. On 2 October, there will be a stand</p>

<p>3.31</p> <p>3.32</p> <p>3.33</p>	<p>and a number of demos at the Ulster Hospital's Travel Plan anniversary event. There will also be opportunities to organise more corporate and community events to tie in with new station locations.</p> <p>Officers are also exploring opportunities to develop a delegate package for conferences and this work will be accelerated once the fleet is up to full capacity. Following the appointment of the new sponsor, there will be an opportunity to embark on a new advertising campaign including targeted online advertising, radio and outdoor (with a focus on the commuter). The Bikes Scheme receives a lot of coverage on social media so there will be a significant social media campaigns to coincide with the agreed changes in the scheme.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The costs of the individual elements have been identified above. A summary is as follows: Signage: £800 from existing Departmental Budget Relocation of Docking Stations: The cost of moving stations is approximately £30,000 in total. This will be a capital cost and will require SP&R approval if it is to proceed.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Station Usage and Station location information</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Pricing options & charging rates of alternative schemes</p>

Appendix 1: Stations proposed for relocation

Table 1

Station Number	Name	Funding Source
3902	City Hall / Donegal Sq North	Dfl
3903	Victoria Square / Victoria Street	Dfl
3904	Donegal Quay	Dfl
3905	Central Station / Mays Meadow	Dfl
3906	St Georges Market / Cromac Square	Dfl
3907	Gasworks (Cromac Street)	Dfl
3908	Waterfront Hall / Lanyon Place	Dfl
3909	Botanic Avenue / Shaftsbury Square	Dfl
3910	Europa Bus Station / Blackstaff Square	Dfl
3911	Great Victoria Street / Hope Street	Dfl
3912	Castle Place / Royal Avenue	Dfl
3913	Smithfield / Winetavern Street	Dfl
3914	Cathedral Gardens / York Street	Dfl
3915	Carrick Hill / St Patrick's Cathedral	Dfl
3916	Dunbar Link / Gordon Street	Dfl
3917	North Street / Waring Street	Dfl
3918	Bankmore Square / Dublin Road	Dfl
3919	College Square East	Dfl
3920	Milfield / Divis Street	Dfl
3921	Odyssey / Sydenham Road	Dfl
3922	Corporation Square	Dfl
3923	Alfred Street / St Malachy's Church	Dfl
3924	Bradbury Place	Dfl
3925	Royal Avenue / Castlecourt	Dfl
3926	Cotton Court / Waring Street	Dfl
3927	Gasworks (Lagan Towpath)	Dfl
3928	Linenhall Street / Donegal Square South	Dfl
3929	Arthur Street / Chichester Street	Dfl
3930	Central Station / East Bridge Street	Dfl
3931	Writer's Square / St Anne's Cathedral	Dfl
3932	Titanic Belfast Met	Dfl, Titanic Belfast & Belfast Harbour
3933	Queens University / University Road	Dfl, Queens University Belfast
3934	Queens University / Botanic Gardens	Dfl, Queens University Belfast
3935	Belfast City Hospital / Lisburn Road	Belfast Trust
3936	The Royal Hospital / Broadway	Belfast Trust
3937	The Mater Hospital / Crumlin Road	Belfast Trust
3938	Shankill Leisure Centre / Shankill Road	DfC, Building Successful Communities
3940	Grosvenor Road / Servia Street	DfC, Building Successful Communities
3941	Falls Road / Twin Spires	DfC, Building Successful Communities
3942	Girdwood Community Hub / Cliftonville Park Avenue	DfC, Building Successful Communities
3943	Antrim Road / Duncairn Centre	DfC, Building Successful Communities
3944	CS Lewis Square	DfC, Building Successful Communities
N/a	Skainos	Urban Villages
N/a	City East	Urban Villages
N/a	Connswater Shopping Centre	Urban Villages
N/a	AllState	Agreed as Planning Condition



 Stations proposed for relocation
 Stations approved awaiting construction

Figure 2: Proposed Relocations

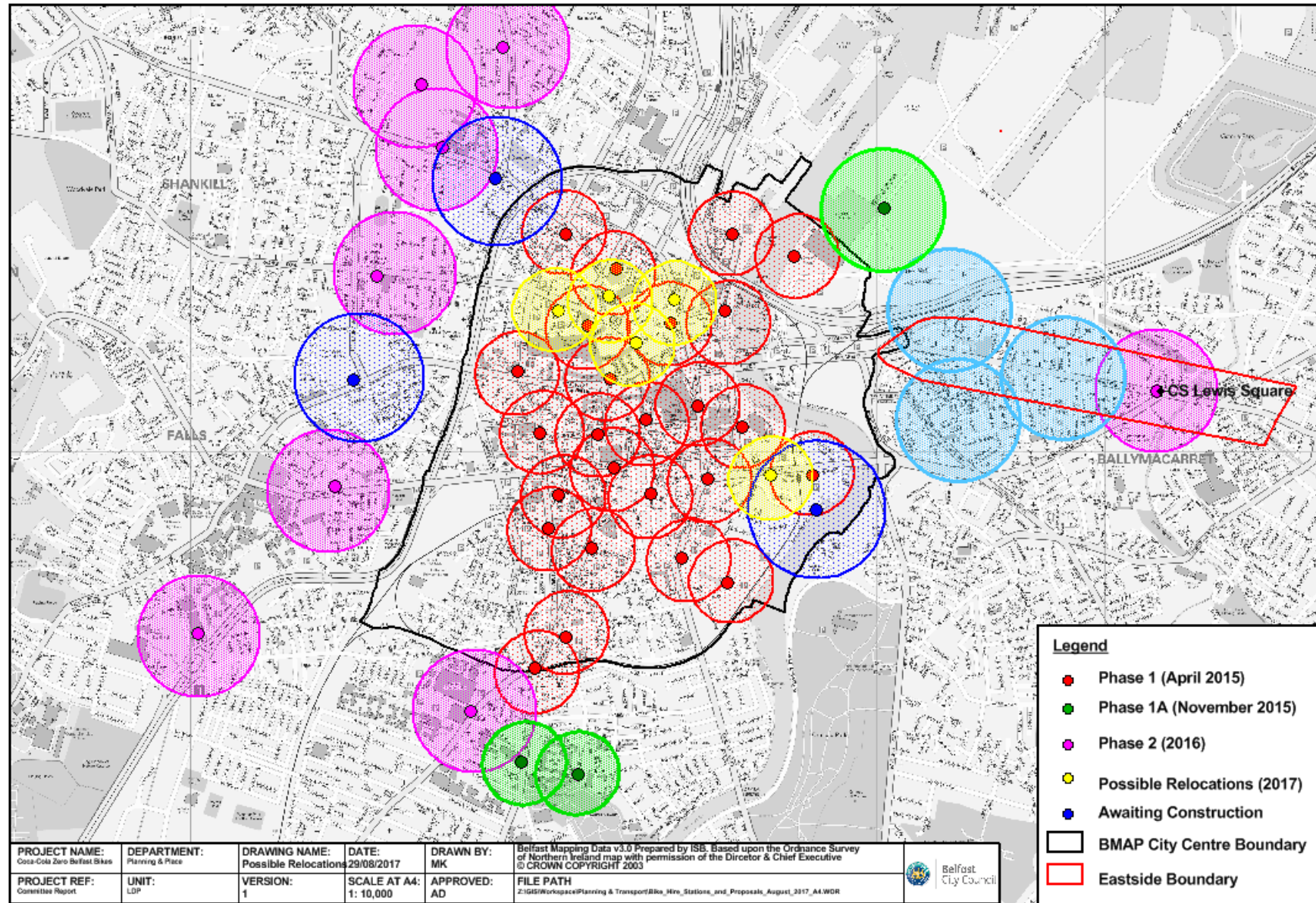
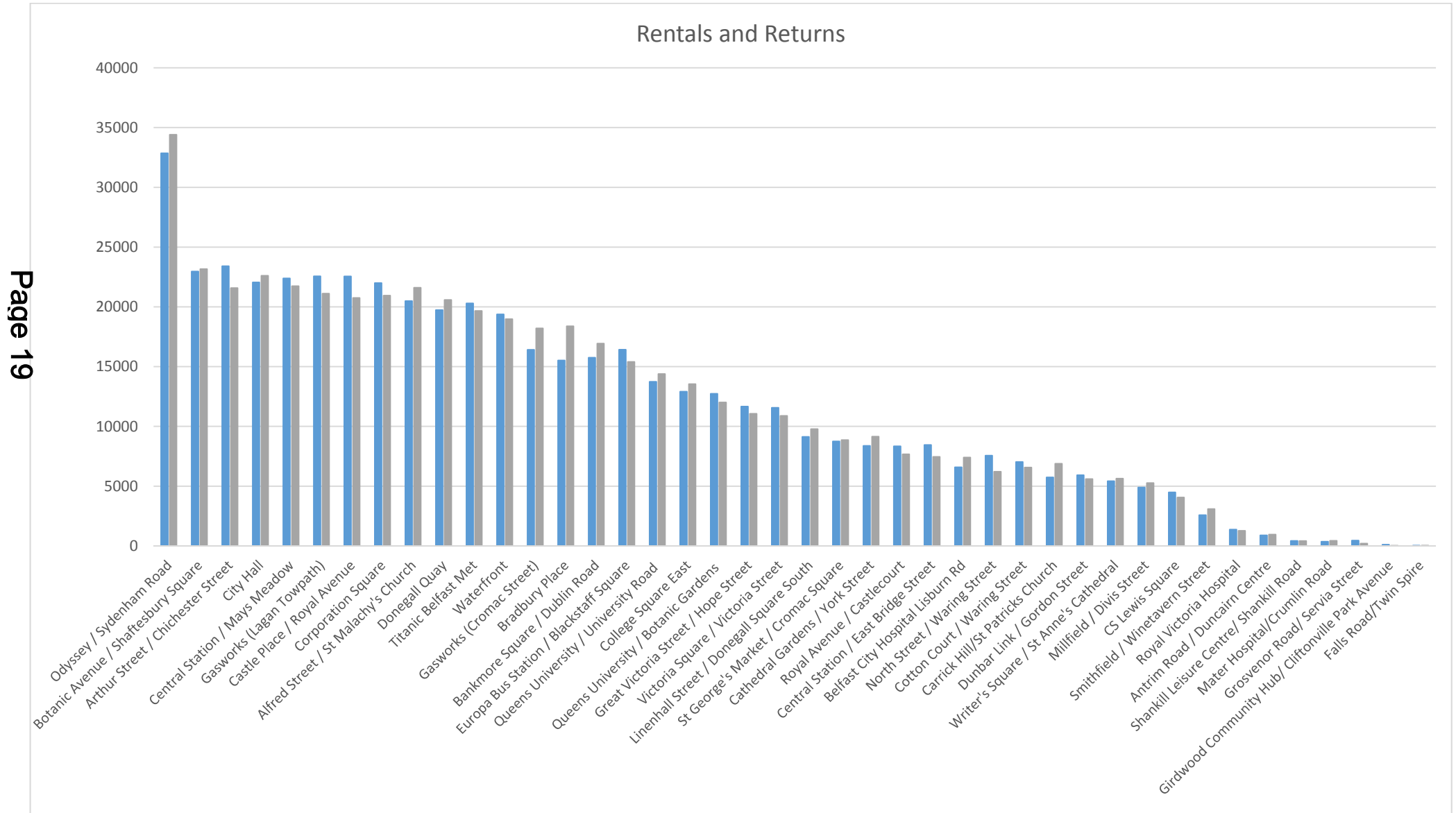


Figure 3: Total usage per station (across 494,968 rentals)



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Appendix 2

The tables below outline the projected growth of membership based on figures from 2016/2017 and the impact of increasing the subscription rate on the growth.

Annual Subscriptions		
	Growth Factor Applied	Non – renewals / cancellation Applied
Option 1- keep current price of £20;	40%	10%
Option 2- Increase current price to £25;	35%	15%
Option 3- Increase current price to £30;	10%	20%

Option 1 – it is expected growth will continue at the current rate of 40%. There is a natural non-renewal of around 10% per annum.

Option 2 – it is expected that growth rate may be slightly lower and non-renewal rate slightly higher.

Option 3 – it is expected that this could reduce the growth rate and the non-renewal rate greatly.

Casual Subscriptions		
	Growth Factor Applied	Any Losses/ drop in take up
Option 1- keep current price of £5;	25%	
Option 2- Increase current price to £6;	20%	5%

Option 1 – it is expected growth will continue at the current rate of 25%.

Option 2 – it is expected that growth rate may be slightly lower.

Charging Rates for other Schemes

Dublin

The Dublin Bike Scheme offers two types of subscriptions – annual at a cost of €25 per annum and casual costing €5 for 3 days of use. Similar to the Belfast scheme the first half hour of use is free with service charges thereafter.

Glasgow

The Glasgow Bike Scheme offers an annual subscription and a casual pay-as-you-go subscription. The annual subscription is charged at £60 per annum with the first 30 minutes of each journey free of charge and 50p per half hour thereafter up to a maximum charge of £5 in any 24 hour period. The casual pay-as-you-go subscription is charged at £1 per half hour of use up to a maximum charge of £10 in any 24 hour period. An annual subscriber can hire up to 4 bikes at any one time which are charged at the standard usage rate.

Oxford

Oxford offers both pedal and electric bikes as part of their bike share scheme. For the pedal bikes there are two subscription options – annual and casual. Annual subscriptions are charged at a rate of £26 per annum with the first 30 minutes of use being free with subsequent charges of £1 per hour up to a maximum £5 charge in any 24 hour period. Casual subscriptions are a pay-as-you-go option with the first two minutes of use free and then a charge of £1 per hour up to a maximum of £6 per hour in a 24 hour period. There is no option to hire additional bikes on either of these subscriptions.



Subject:	Request to present to Committee - employability outreach projects
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Ruth Rea, Economic Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that Council has been supporting a number of employability outreach and engagement pilot projects. Two of these are based on using sport as a mechanism to engage young people, namely Active Communities Network (ACN) and Sport Changes Life (SCL).
1.2	It is requested that both organisations be invited to attend a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to update members on the pilot initiatives being delivered on behalf of Council and to highlight some of the wider innovative work in which they are involved.

2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to receive a presentation from ACN and SCL on work being undertaken across the city to support the positive engagement and employability of young people at a future meeting of the Committee.
3.0	Main Report
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Employability and skills is a key priority for Belfast City Council, recognising the challenges faced by the city including high levels of economic inactivity, unemployment and the resulting impact of this upon poverty and deprivation across the city. As Members will be aware the Council has developed a 10 year Employability & Skills framework which sets a vision of “Realising the potential of Belfast’s people and its economy by transforming skills, employability and aspiration, resulting in higher levels of business growth, employment and income”. One of the most significant factors to help achieve this vision will be addressing unemployment levels, including youth unemployment. It is recognised for some young people who are distant from the labour market, early stage intervention and personal development is required to support them into and through an employment pathway.</p> <p>Members will be aware that, at the June 2016 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, funding was approved for the delivery of early engagement pilot projects to be delivered under the City Employability & Skills Framework. One of the projects supported was an ACN pilot project aimed at engaging 200 young people across Belfast who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or are at risk of becoming so. The pilot project aimed to utilise sport based activities as a means of engagement with the target market. Through this pilot young people are being supported to address personal and employment challenges, gain new skills, participate in work placements and/or secure employment. The key elements of the programme include sport based diversionary activities, workshops and accredited training, employer matching and one to one mentoring.</p> <p>The second project was delivered by SCL, this pilot project aimed to reach 160 of the hardest to reach young people through schools outreach and eHoops programme. Activities targeting local schools aimed to engage with 10 schools across the Council area supporting 100 young people aged 14-16 year olds who are at risk of leaving education or in need of</p>

3.4	<p>additional support, motivation or guidance. The aim of the programme will be to positively engage with young people, support their personal development and improve their attitude to education. The eHoops programme is a multi-disciplinary, sport-based engagement programme targeting 60 young people aged 16-24 year olds in disadvantaged areas, providing skills development opportunities and mentoring support.</p> <p>The presentation will be an opportunity to update Members on progress to date of the pilot project supported by the Council and the wider range of activities being undertaken by ACN and SCL to support young people across the city.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Active Communities Network</u> In 2009 ACN commenced their operations within Belfast, initially within West Belfast before expanding activities across the city and wider region. The activities delivered by the organisation in Belfast have centred on employability, skills development and supporting young people's mental health outcomes. The approach invests in young people regardless of their background; an ethos that focuses on economic growth and holistic youth development as a vehicle which also promotes peace and cohesion.</p>
3.6	<p>ACN works in a multi-agency setting with a range of partners on a local and regional level to support their programmes of activity. ACN has a diverse funding base including the ASDA Foundation, Big Lottery, St James Place etc. The organisation has also developed strong working relationships with the private sector including BT, Asda etc providing a vital link to national employers.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Sport Changes Life</u> Sport Changes Life is a registered UK charity and US non-profit organisation. The primary goal of the Sport Changes Life foundation is to provide an opportunity for raising the aspirations of young people on both sides of the Atlantic so that they can live out their dreams and guide them as sport changes their lives. Sport Changes Life operates a number of programmes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victory Scholar Programme enabling international student-athletes to continue their education at post graduate level. Scholars engage with local communities to work with young people to inspire and build relationships through sport. - School engagement activities targeting young people finding it difficult to engage with education. - eHoops programme supporting young people who are disengaged from traditional interventions, helping them to address their barriers and raise their levels of aspirations

3.8	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications.
3.9	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no resource implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Liveability: City Centre Living - Update on study trip and Members' workshop
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nuala Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development
Contact Officer:	Callie Persic

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the proposed study visit to London to look at examples of good practice in terms of city centre housing developments and wider issues around City Centre Living.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note date and purpose of the study visit to London • Note date of follow-up workshop on city centre living

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In March 2017 the City Growth and Regeneration Committee received an update on work underway to identify the key issues around liveability and increasing the residential population in the city centre. In May 2017 Members discussed the importance of addressing the needs of families living in the city centre and noted that a workshop on the issue of city centre living would be held at a future date.</p>
3.2	<p>At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9 August 2017 Members agreed to undertake a study visit to London to examine good practice in terms of city centre housing developments. It was agreed that one Member from each of the six main parties would attend the study trip that is scheduled for the 12th and 13th of October 2017 to London.</p>
3.3	<p>Following the study visit the workshop on city centre living is scheduled to take place on 23 October between 12-2pm in the Lavery Room. All Members are invited to attend.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The importance of increasing the residential population in the city centre and fostering a high quality city centre living experience is a key policy in the Belfast City Centre Investment Strategy. This is reinforced in the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan, particularly the importance of providing quality, mixed housing developments with homes in a range of sizes and tenures and advancing approaches to delivery such as Living Over the Shops and adaptive reuse. Alternative forms of financing and development models, such as co-ownership, PRS, among others, as well as exploring how Section 76 may best be used to ensure provision of green space, facilities and services to serve future residents also needs consideration.</p>
3.5	<p>Beyond housing, a wider understanding of city centre living takes in the sum of qualities of a place that contributes to a community's quality of life. The concept of liveability has developed a currency in recent years and whilst there are a range of definitions within the literature on urbanism and city development there are key elements that are consistently identified and include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Housing • Food

<p>3.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Open Space • Social infrastructure • Transport • Walkability <p>These qualities may vary and linked to the perceptions of residents, workers and visitors. Currently, council does not have an agreed approach to or definition of city centre living but there are a number of strands of work that are currently being undertaken by different areas within the Council. In particular, the Local Development Plan is producing evidence to support the proposed growth options and is a key piece in creating a viable and sustainable approach to city centre living.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p>The study visit on the 12th and 13th of October and follow up workshop on the 23rd of October provide an opportunity to develop a wider understanding of city centre living and foster a shared understanding and approach. The visit will provide an opportunity to examine examples of mixed tenure and density as well highlight the quality design and wider liveability elements such as public realm, the provision of social infrastructure and models of sustainable development. Since there are already areas of council that are taking forward aspects of liveability within the context of city centre living, representatives from Planning and Place will take part in both the study visit and workshop to ensure shared learning and a collective approach. The City Centre Development team recognises that there are other partners in council that will need to be included to maximise resources and effort and engagement with external partners such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Communities is ongoing.</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any resource implications associated with this report will be met from the approved budgets.</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations implications at this time and will be kept under review.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Committee:	City Growth and Regeneration Committee
Subject:	Recruitment of Operational Director Posts in new Place and Economy Department
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive Paddy Murray, Head of Human Resources

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To agree the composition of two selection panels to recruit the posts of Director for City Regeneration (Operational) and Director for Economic Development (Operational) in the new Place and Economy Department.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate and agree three elected members per selection panel (i.e. six elected Members in total) who, along with Council Directors, will balance the two panels in terms of gender and community background.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that each selection panel should comprise the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and a third elected panel member from a political party not already represented by the Chair or Deputy Chair. <p>That Members agree to the Council deploying suitable professional and technical expertise from other Councils, if required, to be voting members on the selection panels for these new posts, in line with the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection (R&S).</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main report</p>
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 On 21 April 2017, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to commence a recruitment process for a Strategic Director of the new Place and Economy Department and agreed that this would then be followed by recruitment exercises for the posts of Director for City Regeneration (Operational) and Director for Economic Development (Operational) (two of the three Operational Director posts reporting directly to the new Strategic Director in the new department.) The recruitment exercise for the post of Strategic Director of Place and Economy is currently ongoing.</p> <p>3.2 On 23 June 2017, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the selection panels to recruit the posts of Operational Director for City Regeneration and Operational Director for Economic Development would be constituted by Members from the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.</p> <p>3.3 The Chairperson (or her nominees), the Deputy Chairperson (or his nominees) and the other elected members will be required to attend four selection panel meetings per post as part of these recruitment exercises (i.e. eight panel meetings in total). They will also be required to attend prior training on non-discriminatory R&S techniques. The timeframe for these recruitment exercises is likely to commence in October 2017.</p> <p>3.4 The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are, firstly, asked to confirm their availability to sit on one or both of the selection panels or nominate who they wish to represent them. Members are then asked to nominate and agree the other two elected members from</p>

<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p>political parties not already represented by the Chair or Deputy Chair to constitute the selection panels, bearing in mind that both selection panels should, where practicable, be balanced in terms of gender and community background.</p> <p>In the event that suitable expertise is not available in-house, the Council may also choose to deploy suitable expertise from Council Directors in other councils to be voting members with the elected Members on these selection panels. If required, this will be agreed by the LGSC in line with its Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection.</p> <p>Both selection panels will have delegated authority to appoint successful candidates to the posts with the outcome of the appointments being reported back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for notation.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> These posts has already been budgeted for in the revenue estimates and in order to manage recruitment costs, consideration will be given to appointing one professional executive search company for both posts with one composite public advertisement placed simultaneously for both jobs.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Car Parking Income
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Following the submission of the Belfast Car Parking Strategy to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on the 14 June 2017 it was agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the income which was generated by each Council-owned car park.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	On 1 st April 2015, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), formerly known as the Department for Regional Development (DRD), transferred all of its off-street car parks (excluding Park and Ride/Park and Share) to councils. BCC initially became responsible for the operation of 30 car parks previously operated by the DRD, although this has reduced to 29 with the loss of one chargeable car park, Frederick Street, through the expiration of a short term lease. Of the remaining 29 car parks 16 are chargeable and attract a surplus income whilst the remaining 13 car parks are free to use.
	<u>Car Park Income</u>
3.2	For the financial year 1 April 2016 to March 31 March 2017 the car parks within the Council's portfolio generated a total of £1,878,044 which includes Pay and Display, Season Ticket, Parkmobile (Cashless payment by telephone), Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) and advertising hoarding income streams.
3.3	The costs associated with operating these car parks during the same period totalled £863,599. These costs include rent, rates, enforcement costs, cleaning and maintenance. However they do not include internal charges such as business administration, legal and digital services.
3.4	Therefore between April 2016 and March 2017 off-street car parking generated an operating surplus of £1,014,444. It should be noted however that off street car parking function transferred to Council together with Planning on a rates neutral basis with the surplus generated by off street parking off-set against the cost of the Planning function to ensure no overall financial gain or increased cost to the Council or its rate payers.
3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The breakdown per car park for the 2016-2017 financial year is detailed in Appendix 1 and the income to date (April – June) for the 2017-2018 year is detailed in Appendix 2.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Car Park income by individual car park for the 2016 – 2017 financial year. Appendix 2 – Car Park income by individual car park for the 2017 – 2018 financial year (April to June).

APPENDIX 1

Car Park Income 2016-2017

Car Park	Spaces	Total Income
Ashdale Street	90	£13,413
Bankmore Street	46	£83,689
Charlotte Street	90	£181,355
Corporation Square	193	£175,595
Cromac Street	104	£151,506
Dunbar Street	34	£90,752
Exchange Street	48	£92,591
Hope Street North	41	£135,649
Little Donegall Street	109	£76,931
Little Victoria Street	88	£197,508
Marlborough Avenue	36	£21,616
Smithfield Market	109	£228,927
Station Street	114	£171,766
York Street /Lancaster St	53	£36,263
Kent Street	68	£77,005
Corporation Street	95	£106,208
Frederick Street (closed August 2016)	133	£37,269
Dundela Crescent	25	
Glenburn Road	122	
Grampian Avenue	41	
Northumberland Street	87	
Parkgate Avenue	36	
Ravenscroft Avenue	53	
Sandown Road	64	
Shaws Bridge	57	
Wandsworth Road	22	
Westminster Avenue East	10	
Westminster Avenue West	10	
Westminster Avenue North	67	
Whitla Street	50	
Totals		£1,878,044

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APPENDIX 2

Car Park Income 2017 - 2018 (to date - 1 April - 30 June)

Car Park	Spaces	Total Income
Ashdale Street	90	£3,274
Bankmore Street	46	£21,150
Charlotte Street	90	£44,867
Corporation Square	193	£43,082
Cromac Street	104	£37,907
Dunbar Street	34	£22,803
Exchange Street	48	£23,180
Hope Street North	41	£34,444
Little Donegall Street	109	£20,460
Little Victoria Street	88	£53,168
Marlborough Avenue	36	£5,518
Smithfield Market	109	£55,904
Station Street	114	£41,396
York Street /Lancaster St	53	£9,722
Kent Street	68	£17,635
Corporation Street	95	£24,317
Frederick Street (closed August 2016)	133	£301
Dundela Crescent	25	
Glenburn Road	122	
Grampian Avenue	41	
Northumberland Street	87	
Parkgate Avenue	36	
Ravenscroft Avenue	53	
Sandown Road	64	
Shaws Bridge	57	
Wandsworth Road	22	
Westminster Avenue East	10	
Westminster Avenue West	10	
Westminster Avenue North	67	
Whitla Street	50	
Totals		£459,128

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Subject:	Operational Amendments to: Christmas Lights Switch-on 2017 & St Patrick's Day 2018
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This paper is to seek approval from Members in regard to proposed operational changes to the 2017 Christmas Lights Switch-on and the 2018 St Patrick's Day celebrations.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve the proposed road closure arrangements for the 2017 Christmas Lights Switch-on (Saturday 18 November) and for such changes to be utilised for all future Christmas Switch-on events subject to the Council's Events and Festivals strategic

	<p>review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree that the Council amends its operations for the 2018 St Patrick's Day (Saturday 17 March) celebrations to a parade only event and not to stage a concert in Custom House Square.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>As Members are aware, the issue of health and safety is an ongoing and changing dynamic. Across Council, staff continually work to ensure the safety of the public, staff and contractors when staging BCC's events programme. This involves a continual review of arrangements, whether the event is a one-off, an annual or multi-annual project. As part of this review process Members are being asked to endorse changes to two of the city's traditional events – Christmas Lights Switch-on and St Patrick's Day Celebrations. These changes are designed to increase the robustness of health and safety plans attached to the delivery of both projects.</p>
3.2	<p>Members may be aware that the switching on of the city's festive lighting dates back to the early 1970s. Over the years, the staging of the Belfast Christmas Lights Switch-on has become a bye-word for the start of the Belfast Christmas Festive period. Hundreds of thousands have attended the event over the years, with an annual audience of over 10,000. As the event has grown additional elements have been added in order to cope with crowd numbers and in doing so provide a safe and welcoming space. However, since the introduction and growth of the city's very successful Christmas Market it has become apparent that the complexity of setting up for two major events, the Christmas Market and Switch-on, requires a change in approach to increase the level of safety for all. Therefore, Members are asked to note that Officers, with the endorsement of the Council's Events Advisory Panel (non-statutory advisory group made of a range of Council Officers, PSNI, BCCM, Department for Infrastructure (Roads), NI Ambulance Service, NI Fire & Rescue, etc.) would intend to apply for road closures along: Wellington Place; Donegall Square North and Chichester Street from 21:00 hours, on Friday 17 November to Sunday 19 November, at 07:00 and restrictions to traffic in Donegall Square East. This arrangement would restrict vehicular movement to contractors (involved in the Christmas Lights and Christmas Market build) and require the Council to work with partners such as Belfast City Centre Management, PSNI, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Translink and the Department of Infrastructure (Roads) to enforce such road closures. The intended outcome would be to reduce the level of pedestrian and vehicle interaction in an area that</p>

is heavily congested even before the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on construction has started. This interaction has become an area of grave concern with many pedestrians taking risks at road junctions where temporary layouts are in place, often ignoring directional signage, advice of stewards and breaking through directional barriers. Given these issues, Officers, and members of the Events Advisory Panel are now of the opinion that the current traffic/pedestrian management arrangements present an unacceptable level of risk to the many pedestrians, motorists and other road users during the final set-up for both the Christmas Market and Switch-on. These amendments have been notified to Belfast City Centre Management and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce. Therefore, Members are asked to support Officers in their efforts to increase the levels of safety in an area of the city that experiences exceptionally high vehicular and pedestrian footfall even before the staging of the city's two biggest Christmas festive events.

3.3 The second approval which Members are being asked to endorse is the removal of the concert element of the Council's annual St Patrick's Day festivities – the day normally involves both a concert and a parade. Over the last eleven years, both events have been staged to mark the Bank Holiday, with a city centre audience in excess of 20,000. However, the capacity to host the concert, at Custom House Square, has become an issue of concern in the last number of years. The key is the number of people trying to access the concert site post the parade, with significant congestion and safety issues at the intersection of High Street, Victoria Street and Queen's Square/Custom House Square. It is expected that the level of congestion will increase significantly given that the 2018 event will be staged on a Saturday. In addition to this, it is notable that after the initial influx, audience numbers tend to fluctuate, particularly depending on the weather. Therefore, for 2018, and subject to the Council's Events and Festival strategic review, Officers are seeking to expand the parade element of St Patrick's Day. This would involve a larger procession which would assemble in Custom House Square and then follow a city centre route which would traverse through the main retail district and return to Custom House Square. To enable this to happen it would mean there would be no concert on the day. Recent surveys by Belfast City Council indicate that the best way to improve the St Patricks Day event would be the upscaling of the parade.

3.4 Therefore, given that St Patrick's Day, in 2018, will be delivered by Belfast City Council on a Saturday, there is a unique opportunity to attract a wider, representative audience to the event by growing the parade and carnival aspect of the day. This would involve an increase in spend to provide additional workshops, performers, props and expenses to allow more groups to participate from across the community. Any expenditure on this aspect would be

	<p>found within the existing event budget. Plus if permission is given, to rethink the musical element of the event, by moving away from a main stream concert at Custom House Square, and instead look towards 'pop up' musical and street performance to be staged within Belfast city centre in areas such as, Writers Square, Bank Square, Corn Market, St Anne's Square and Cotton Court. The time frame for the event activities would also be increased to run from 11:00 to 17:00, contributing to a more festival feel throughout the city for the day. Such changes would adhere to suggestions from Belfast City Centre Management and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce.</p>
3.5	<p>Overall, it is envisaged that these changes would assist in reducing significant health and safety concerns that now pose a major risk to the public, contractors and Council staff for both the Christmas Lights Switch-on and St Patrick's Day events. However, additional health and safety elements may be required, for both events, due to ongoing reviews connected to overall security in public spaces in the light of recent terror attacks. Any arrangements would be introduced and conducted in conjunction with PSNI and would be subject to ongoing analysis.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>As with all major public facing cultural projects, the above events have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city and across Northern Ireland.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is envisaged that there will be limited additional costs connected to the proposed amendments. Any changes would be subject to input from PSNI and the Department for Infrastructure (Roads). However, Officers would be hopeful that any cost implications would be found within the Development Department's City Events Unit budget for 2017-18.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>



Subject:	Visit by the Lord Mayor of the City of London – 10/11 October 2017
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to advise Members of a planned visit to Belfast by the Lord Mayor of the 'City of London', Rt Hon Dr Andrew Parmley.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the planned visit to Belfast by the Lord Mayor of the 'City of London' and the opportunities presented by this visit to promote Belfast as an investment location. - Note the draft programme for the Lord Mayor's visit, including the civic reception and dinner in Titanic Hotel, to which all Members of this Committee will be invited.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
	<p>The Lord Mayor of the City of London is the head of the City of London Corporation, based in the city's financial district. The Lord Mayor changes annually and the current Lord Mayor took up his position in November 2016.</p>
3.2	<p>The purpose of the role is to support and promote the UK's financial and professional services. As part of that role, Dr Parmley will visit Ireland and Northern Ireland in early October. This visit will include a series of meetings in Belfast, including a civic dinner to be hosted by the Lord Mayor of Belfast.</p>
3.3	<p>Council officers have been working closely with Invest NI to consider how to maximise the opportunity presented by Dr Parmley's visit to Belfast. A draft visit programme is attached at Appendix 1. Key elements of this programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic reception and dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Nuala McAllister, in Titanic Hotel on 10 October. - Business roundtable in the Citi Headquarters building in Titanic Quarter on the morning of 10 October focusing on positioning Belfast as an investment location for financial and professional services. - Visit to Centre for Secure Information Technology (CSIT) to showcase the research and technology excellence available at the centre. This has helped make Belfast the number one location globally for US-based cyber investment.
3.4	<p>Members will also be aware that the Committee at its April 2017 meeting agreed to sponsor the London-based business network Belfast Partners. This network supports business development connections between the two cities. Planning work is at an advanced stage for a business mission to London in November 2017 involving local tech businesses. This visit will also involve a networking reception and showcase event in the City of London which will provide an opportunity to follow up on some of the contacts established during Dr Parmley's visit.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The costs associated with hosting the event have been accounted for in existing departmental budgets.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Draft Visit Programme

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**VISIT OF THE RT. HON THE LORD MAYOR
ALDERMAN DR ANDREW PARMLEY**

10th October 2017 – 11th October 2017

TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

TIME	ENGAGEMENT
06:15	Depart Dublin Connolly Station
09:06	Arrive Belfast Central Station
09:20 - 10:45	<p>Roundtable with Business Representatives</p> <p>Venue: Citi HQ, Titanic Quarter</p> <p>Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brexit Readiness - Benefits of FPRS nearshoring in Belfast - Smart Cities
11:00- 12:30	Transfer to Derry-Londonderry
12:45- 14:45	<p>Lunch and Reception with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Maoliosa McHugh, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council. Local Businesses also in attendance.</p> <p>Venue: Guild Hall, Guildhall St.</p> <p>Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent/skills retention in North West - Education in Brexit context
15:00- 16:30	<p>Meeting with Peter Devine, Head of Business Development, Intelligent Systems Research Centre (ISRC.)</p> <p>The Centre provides a state-of-the-art research environment, including laboratories for bio-inspired and neuro-engineering, brain-computer interfacing, computational neuroscience, cognitive robotics, and instrumentation, along with facilities for research in ambient intelligence and wireless sensor networks.</p> <p>https://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/institutes/computer-science/groups/intelligent-systems-research-centre/about</p>

	Venue: Faculty of Computing and Engineering, Ulster University, Magee Campus, BT48 7JL
16:30-18:00	Transfer to Belfast
18:45	<p>Reception with Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister followed by a civic dinner with representatives from business/ education.</p> <p>Venue: Titanic Hotel, Belfast</p> <p>Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brexit readiness - European Capital of Culture bid
22:00	Return to hotel
	End of Business

WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER

TIME	ENGAGEMENT
08:30-10:00	<p>Breakfast meeting hosted by David Crozier, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Engagement</p> <p>Venue: CSIT (Centre for Secure Information)</p> <p>Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cyber security in the financial services sector
10:15-11:45	<p>Digital Catapult Centre</p> <p>The Centre focuses on helping organisations work smarter, more efficiently and ultimately become more productive by realising and implementing innovative digital technologies.</p> <p>https://www.digitalcatapultcentre.org.uk/about/</p>
	Return to London from Belfast City Airport



Subject:	Conference Tourism: economic impact and future growth
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development,
Contact Officer:	Clare Mullen, Tourism, Culture, Heritage & Arts Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the growth of conference tourism over recent years and the potential for future growth, as a key element of tourism development in the City.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the importance and economic value of conference tourism to the city and the projected growth of this sector - Note the importance of Conference support mechanisms such as the Subvention Scheme in attracting events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree to extend the scheme end date to 2025, subject to agreement with Tourism NI and subject to resource availability.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Business and conference tourism is a key priority of the Integrated Tourism Strategy which was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2015. The Strategy was developed in tandem with the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan and the proposals are aligned to support the future development, economic growth and profile of the city.
3.2	Belfast City Council and Tourism NI both provide financial support towards a Conference Subvention Scheme which is administered by Visit Belfast. This provides financial incentives to encourage Conference organisers to choose Belfast as a destination for their event. An independent review of the scheme was conducted at the end of 2016 and, as a result, new guidelines have been developed in order to streamline the process and ensure that the fund meets the changing needs of the Conference sector.
3.3	The Scheme has been a critical element of Belfast's ability to attract conferences to the City. Last year, conference tourism contributed over £35million to the City's economy in terms of spend on venues, accommodation, hospitality and leisure activities.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	The investment in the new Conference and Exhibition facilities at Belfast Waterfront has been a "game-changer" in terms of the City's activity to host large-scale Conferences and events as well as associated exhibitions. Working with local Ambassadors (principally aligned to the local universities) and with local venues, the Business Tourism team at Visit Belfast has been working to raise awareness of the enhanced facilities as well as the wider positioning of Belfast as a cost-competitive, business-friendly Conference location.
3.4	Over the course of the last financial year, the continued efforts of those involved helped secure the following conference tourism deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 69 major conferences - 25,000 delegates - 75,000 bed nights - Economic value of £35 million to the city.

3.5	<p>Some of the events recently secured by Visit Belfast for the coming years include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Conference on Personalised Medicine: 1,250 delegates, 5,000 bed nights worth £1.9m in 2017 - IDF World Dairy Summit: 1,200 delegates, 6,250 bed nights worth £2.4m 2017 - WHO Healthy Cities Conference: 1,000 delegates, 5,000 bed nights worth £1.9m in 2018. - British Ecological Society Annual Meeting: 1,500 delegates, 4,500 bed nights worth £2.2m in 2019 - College of Occupational Therapists: 1,500 delegates. 3,000 bed nights worth £1.4m 2019 - Microbiology Society Conference 2019 and 2022 1,400 delegates, 5,600 bed nights worth £2.7m per conference.
3.6	<p>Having the physical infrastructure in place is just one element of a city’s activity to attract large-scale Conferences and Events. Conference organisers also look for elements such as ease of access, alignment to Conference objectives (e.g. areas of research excellence) and the “city welcome”. Members will be aware that the City Hall can provide a spectacular backdrop for events and the ability to provide access to the venue for Conference receptions is an important selling tool for the city.</p>
3.7	<p>In a highly competitive, global business environment, it is important to be able to offer a “package” of support in order to allow the city to compete favourably. Most cities have access to a Conference Subvention Scheme which can provide Conference organisers with financial incentives to secure the Conference or event for their city.</p>
3.8	<p>In Belfast, the Council and Tourism NI have been investing in the Conference Subvention Fund for a number of years. The scheme has evolved as the market has changed and as the City offer has moved on. Following some competitor benchmarking, as part of the independent review, Visit Belfast has worked with the Council and Tourism NI to revise the operational arrangements around the scheme, focusing on maximising economic return while providing optimal flexibility to Conference organisers in terms of eligible expenditure. While details are currently being finalised, it is proposed that the product offer is re-branded to demonstrate the breadth of the support services available to Conference organisers – not just the financial incentive. This may include opportunities to support familiarisation trips if Belfast is shortlisted as a host city for an event, or providing hospitality at City Hall for those</p>

3.9	<p>events that meet the revised criteria for these functions.</p> <p>Visit Belfast currently has a strong pipeline of £180 million of active leads and is prioritising research and sales activity into two identified sectors, namely Life and Health Sciences and Agri-Food. These sectors provide a stronger and quicker return due to the pool of Ambassador talent within the local universities. In addition to these sectors, they will continue to focus on wider economic sectors that align to areas of research and industry expertise in the City.</p>
3.10	<p>When the current Conference Subvention Scheme was put in place, the end date for financial commitments was set as 2020. Given that Visit Belfast is currently exploring opportunities to bid for Conferences beyond this date, it is proposed that the end date for the scheme is extended to 2025. This does not mean that the Council will be committing to maintaining specific levels of resources until this timeframe. Instead, it means that Visit Belfast will be able to look ahead to a wider timeframe for new business development opportunities, subject to financial resources being in place. Officers are currently engaging with Tourism NI to ensure that they can also agree to these revised timeframes.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>At present Belfast City Council’s annual financial contribution to the Conference Subvention Scheme is £200,000. This is match-funded by resources from Tourism NI. This allocation has been set aside in existing budgets for the current financial year.</p> <p>The Council contribution to the scheme will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, in conjunction with Tourism NI and in line with available resources.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	European Capital of Culture - Sept Update
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Eimear Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager

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

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

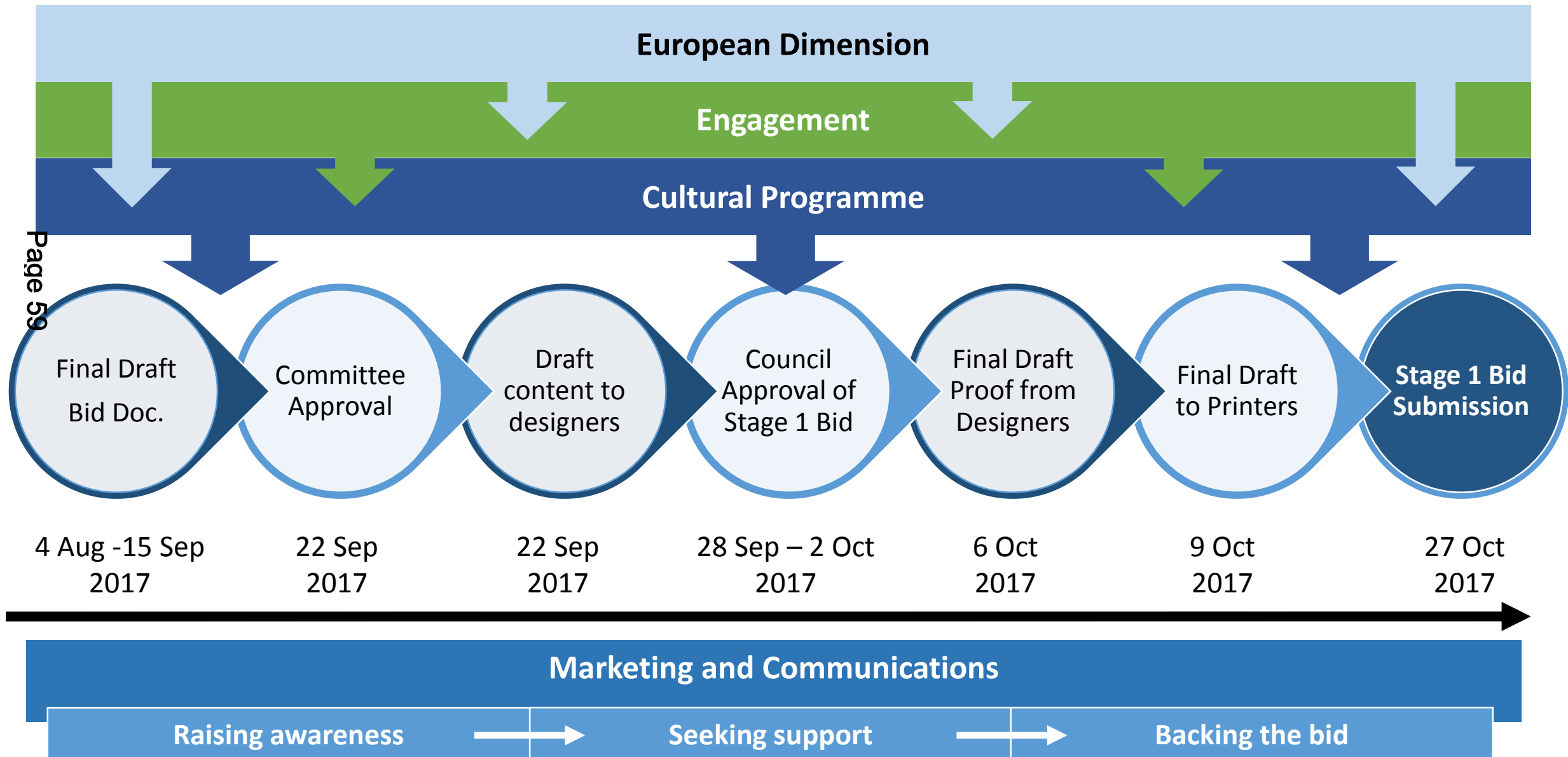
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the development of a bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to become the UK designated city for European Capital of Culture in 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report including ongoing progress against targets and critical timelines

3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u>
	Members will be aware that an update was provided to Committee in August 2017 with a follow up workshop at the Seamus Heaney Centre scheduled for 12 September 2017.
3.2	<p>The purpose of this workshop was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a detailed update on the engagement process and the associated themes for the bid - provide an overview of programme content - discuss the level of financial commitment required and the associated funding strategy
3.3	Invites were extended to all Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Party Group Leaders (or nominees).
3.4	<p><u>Engagement</u></p> <p>To date the bid has engaged with over 7,000 people across both cities. This has been achieved through attendance at events throughout the summer alongside a programme of tailored workshops. Extensive engagement has also taken place through Council's existing schemes. An online platform has also been established.</p>
3.5	<p>The engagement during stage one has largely focussed on three strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One to one engagement with local citizens - Facilitated workshops with interest groups - Sessions with representative and voluntary organisations
3.6	The responses to this engagement will directly shape the overall theme and brand of the bid. This theme needs to be authentic to the cities as well as having strong relevance for Europe. The bid is on target to have engaged with 10,000 citizens by the submission date of 27 October 2017.
3.7	<p>Should the bid be shortlisted to stage 2 this engagement will continue with opportunities for direct participation through a series of pilot projects. A report will be taken to Committee outlining the proposed approach for the allocation of any funding to these projects.</p> <p>Further awareness of the bid has also been achieved through marketing and communications activities. This activity will continue to increase in the coming months to</p>

3.8	<p>help build momentum in the run up to the submission deadline.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Cultural Programme</u></p> <p>As well as the civic engagement outlined above the bid team has also delivered a series of events targeting the wider cultural and creative sector. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information session - 6 thematic workshops - 4 Big Ideas sessions
3.10	<p>These sessions have engaged with over 300 people working across the arts, heritage, sport, science and the creative industries.</p>
3.11	<p>A creative reference group has been established to include 4 local representatives. These members were selected following a nomination and application process. This group also includes three international programmers who have previous experience of either developing a bid or delivering a successful European Capital of Culture.</p>
3.12	<p>At stage one a number of indicative projects will be presented as part of the bid. In order to select these projects three strands of programme development are in place. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Call: opportunity for anyone to submit projects ideas - Commission: the identification of a number of flagship project ideas based on the themes emerging from the engagement process. A formal commissioning process would take place at subsequent stages. - Curate: the group will identify specific gaps in the programme and make connections with smaller projects from the open call.
3.13	<p>The open call closed on 6 September 2017. All ideas will be retained for stage 2, however, a selection will be presented at stage one. Any individual or group who submits an idea will be invited to a follow up event in January 2018.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Timeline</u></p> <p>Given the timelines associated with the submission of the stage 1 bid the final proposal and financial information will be presented at a meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 22 September 2017. The current critical path is included at Appendix 1.</p>

3.15	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A provisional total budget of £51m will be included in the submission at stage 1. This has been benchmarked against spend by other cities who have bid for the designation. This would be made up of a variety of funding streams over a number of years. A detailed fundraising strategy is currently being developed and this will include funding from public and private sources. If shortlisted to stage 2 a full business case will be developed. At stage one it is important to demonstrate the viability of the bid and the capacity of the region to deliver a programme of the required scale. Further and specific commitment to financial support will be necessary at stage 2.</p>
3.1	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>In advance of stage 2 the engagement plan will be equality screened and any gaps addressed. The final programme and associated strategies will also be equality screened.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - European Capital of Culture Critical Path

European Capital of Culture Stage 1 Bid – Critical Deadlines



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Subject:	International Relations Update
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The purpose of the report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Members on the delivery of the International Relations Framework, focusing on activity over the last six months since April 2017 Seek approval for the delivery of further activity within the 2017 – 2018 Action Plan until the end of the current financial year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the range of activities and associated outputs of a range of International Relations actions over the course of the first half of this financial year as well as the plans for the period September 2017 - March 2018 Agree to the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) at

	<p>the business mission and business networking event in the City of London on 22-23 November 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agree to the attendance of the Chair of Committee (or nominee) and one officer at the 2017 Commonwealth Local Government conference in Malta on 21 – 24 November, 2017, at a cost not to exceed £1,500. – Agree to the attendance of the Lord Mayor and Director of Development (or their nominees) at the launch of the 2018 Friendship Four Tournament in Boston in January 2018, at a cost not to exceed £3,500. – Agree to provide financial support of up to £5,000 towards the annual Chinese New Year event in Belfast.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016 - 2021.
3.2	The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage with other stakeholders as a place to visit, study, work and do business. The Framework will deliver primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through the Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.
3.3	Members will be aware that, at the 8 March 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update report on International Relations activity for the previous six months was presented and the outline plans for the coming period were set out for endorsement. This report provides an update on the activities and associated outcomes over the six-month period from April to September 2017 and identifies a number of priority actions for the coming six months, until the end of the current financial year. These activities have, in the most part, been led by Belfast City Council working in partnership with stakeholders in government, education, tourism, business, culture and sport.
3.4	<p>The key deliverables for the period April-September 2017 are set out in Appendix 1. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City visit to Shenyang, focusing on educational linkage opportunities. The Lord Mayor was accompanied by representation from Belfast Metropolitan College and both universities and all are currently pursuing opportunities for collaborative research, training and student exchanges

- Hosting of the first ever visit to Belfast by the Nashville Healthcare Council, with plans underway for a wider trade mission from Tennessee State area in the coming year
- Hosting of a multi-sectoral business mission from Boston in June 2017. Some concrete leads are already progressing, including collaborative engagement between the MAC and academics from Harvard University.

3.5

The coming six months will see a number of inward and outward visits as well as ongoing engagement and contacts to follow up on leads from previous visits. The majority of these activities have already been approved by this Committee and the budgetary resources have been set aside within the agreed Departmental budgets. However, there are a number of additional activities that will require the approval of this Committee.

3.6

The outline plans for September 2017-March 2018 include:

Shenyang

- Attendance at the 3rd Annual Shenyang Smart Cities Summit on 21-23 September 2017. This will be an opportunity to showcase the Belfast Smart Cities Roadmap and pipeline projects. It is anticipated that the cities of Belfast and Shenyang will reach agreement during the summit to develop and deliver a collaborative Smart Cities project
- Belfast City Council will seek to host a second inward business mission from the London Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Invest NI in late 2017
- Belfast City Council will support Chinese New Year 2018 in partnership with the Chinese Consulate General and Confucius Institute. The organisers have approached the Council to seek a contribution of £5,000 towards the celebrations. These will be held in Belfast City Hall and will involve a series of performances and local outreach events. The celebrations will take place over the period end of January to mid-February, 2018. Members are asked to consider this request for support, which has not yet been approved by this Committee.

Nashville:

- Nashville has confirmed that the City will lead an annual cross sectoral delegation to Belfast each Autumn. Officers are currently developing a programme for this visit from 2-6 October 2017. The Nashville delegation will consist of more than 12 representatives across a range of sectors including business, academia and legislature. Members of the Committee will be invited to meet the delegation over the course of the visit
- Ongoing support for student exchanges between Belfast schools and their Nashville counterparts, starting again in January 2018
- Visit to Nashville in late September 2017 by a creative industries and music business

delegation, in partnership with the Nashville Entrepreneurship Centre

- Ongoing engagement with the Country Music Awards (CMA) to explore the potential of livestreaming the awards in Belfast or other broadcast opportunities, as well as the potential for some live music events in the city. This may form part of a future cultural celebration programme that will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and endorsement.

Boston

- Belfast City Council will hold a Belfast in Boston Week from 16-20 October 2017 showcasing tourism, cyber security, European Capital of Culture and Resilient Cities cooperation. A programme for this visit is currently being finalised in conjunction with the Belfast lead contact in Boston as well as Invest NI. The visit will coincide with a global entrepreneurship event that will be taking place in Boston at the same time and there will be opportunities to profile Belfast-based entrepreneurs
- Belfast City Council will host 25 Boston delegates during the annual International Homecoming from 2-6 October 2017
- Belfast City Council is donating an organ donor arts sculpture to Boston on 3rd December as part of the global cities initiative to celebrate organ donorship
- Ulster University will enter into a collaborative arrangement with Emerson College, Boston on Animation
- Belfast City Council will co-host the 3rd annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament and Gala dinner in November 2017
- Belfast City Council will co-host the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Invitational Tournament in December 2017. In parallel with the event, the Council will host a business mission from Massachusetts
- The MAC will play host in October 2017 to a Beckett production that has been developed by a Harvard-based academic team
- Boston Visitor Convention Bureau Boston and Visit Belfast will co-operate to promote the Norwegian Airlines Belfast to Providence flight
- The Lord Mayor has been invited to launch the 2018 Friendship Four event in Boston in January 2018. Previous Lord Mayors have also attended this event which is an important element of raising the profile of the event. This visit will also provide an opportunity to start the process of engagement with potential new teams for future events. The Committee is asked to approve the Lord Mayor's attendance at this event, along with one officer at a maximum cost of £3,500. This budget has been set aside within the current Departmental budget.

London

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast City Council to host a visit by the Lord Mayor of the City of London in October 2017. This will provide an opportunity to promote the City as a location for business and professional services investment • Belfast City Council has sponsored the London-based Belfast Partners network. The network will host a series of events in the course of the next six months to encourage business-based collaborations between companies located in both cities and will collaborate with the Council on a number of these. The events will include a business mission and networking event in London on 22-23 November 2017. Recruitment will close soon for participating businesses and it is likely that 8-10 local companies take part in the mission. In addition to individually-organised programmes, the companies will take part in a networking reception in the City of London on the evening of 23 November. Given the opportunities for networking, business-to-business connections and city promotion, it is recommended that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee takes part in this visit. The costs will not exceed £1,000 and will be met from within existing Departmental budgets. <p><u>Wider Engagement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast has been nominated as the host city for the 2019 Commonwealth Local Government (CCLG) conference. This event takes place every 2 years and draws attendance from local authorities from across the Commonwealth area. The 2017 event takes place in Malta on 21 – 24 November 2017. As part of the promotion and engagement process associated with positioning Belfast possibly as the 2019 host city, it is proposed that the Chair of Committee (or nominee) and one officer attends the November 2017 event in Malta. The costs associated with attendance will not exceed £1,500. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Costs associated with the above activities have been set aside within the existing Departmental budget.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The new International Relations Framework 2016-2021 has been equality screened and approved.</p>
3.7	
3.8	
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: International Relations Outputs: April - September 2017.

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International Relations Outputs: April-September 2017

Shenyang Activities and Outputs to date 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council led a multi partner outward mission to China from 6-13 May 2017 which has led to ongoing cooperation in the areas of Smart Cities, education linkages between the colleges and universities on research and student exchanges, exchange of practice in supporting health and active ageing and tourism development opportunities.

Business and Investment:

- Collaboration with Invest NI on visit to Belfast and NI by the Chinese Consulate General and the London Chamber of Commerce in June 2017. This has led to further engagement as follows:
 - Visit Belfast has since met with China Travel Service and will deliver annual training to the CTS staff in London on new Belfast tourism products including hotels and attractions
 - Belfast City Council hosting Newham Council, London who are host council to the biggest Chinese investment in London, with a view to attracting middle and back office Chinese investments to Belfast
 - Belfast City Council is developing a Belfast Investment Pitchbook of investment opportunities and sites to promote to the Chinese Embassy and London based Chinese businesses
 - Belfast City Council hosted a delegation of Shanghai investors interested in opportunities on the North Foreshore investment site and other Harbour development sites
 - Belfast City Council presented to an Invest NI led tourism business mission and is following up with information on hotel and other tourism investment opportunities
- Belfast City Council hosted a delegation from the Wenzhou Chamber of Commerce in April 2017 led by Invest NI, promoting investment opportunities in the city
- Belfast will be represented at the annual Shenyang Smart Cities Summit, September 2017, to develop a pilot project in this field between the cities and local partners.

Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council supported two education showcases in China during the May China visit which led to linkages as follows:
 - Belfast Metropolitan College considering activity with a Beijing College and reporting significant progress in this regard
 - Ulster University signed a MOU with Shenyang University for staff and student exchanges in areas of fashion and animation
 - Ulster University further cemented linkages around its ongoing annual work with the Police University of China, signing a new agreement to develop a cohort on criminology in September 2017
 - Ulster University also had introductory meetings around partnerships in Art and Design, Film and Photography, in terms of staff exchange and research
 - Ulster University has been invited to make a keynote speech at the International Criminology and Police Conference in Shenyang in October 2017
- Belfast City Council hosted an inward visit from Queen's China College welcoming 20 students from the Pharmaceutical Joint College in Shenyang in July 2017
- Belfast City Council hosted an inward visit from 4 visiting Chinese professors relating to Connected Health as guests of Ulster University in August 2017.

International Relations Outputs: April-September 2017

Nashville Activities and Outputs to date 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council led a further mission to Nashville from 17th – 22nd May 2017. This has led to development of activity in the following areas:
 - Initial exploration and scoping with Invest NI and Nashville Chamber of Commerce regarding the development of a Sister City trade mission, potentially with the support of the Tennessee State Department. This has been provisionally planned for mid-2018
 - Ongoing engagement around youth and skills development activities, including Catalyst Inc.'s Night of Ambition, which has been replicated in Nashville
 - Initiated dialogue between Nashville Youth Council and Belfast Youth Forum which is leading to a joint webinar in November 2018
 - Additional exploration in respect to developing a formal partnership in the legal sectors of both cities
 - Exploration of opportunities for hosting international Country Music Association (CMA) events in Belfast in Spring 2018

Business/Investment

- Belfast City Council in partnership with Invest NI, hosted the Nashville Healthcare Council in April 2017 connecting the Council with stakeholders in the Life and Health Sciences sector in Belfast

Education/Sport

- Belfast City Council provided Lord Mayoral support to Ulster University's undergraduates visit to Nashville in April 2017
- Belfast City Council hosted a group of Ulster University's Nashville Summer School students in July 2017

International Relations Outputs: April-September 2017

Boston Activities and Outputs to date 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council hosted a multi-sectoral mission from Boston in June 2017. Further linkages were made in the areas of:
 - Judiciary
 - Education
 - Business
 - Arts
 - Regeneration
- Belfast City Council hosted a welcome reception for Towards Independent Living, a Boston-based organisation that works with young adults with autism, together with Autism NI, who are collaborating on a Sister City level to improve young people's quality of life and life experiences.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council provided Boston introductions for the first NI Sport Technology Trade Mission to Boston in September 2017
- Belfast City Council provided Boston introductions for the launch of the NI Aurora Investment Fund in Boston planned for October 2017
- Belfast City Council and CSIT (Centre for Cyber Security) hosted experts from Boston at the annual Belfast Cyber Security Summit in April 2017.

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Subject:	Other Voices Proposal
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Clare Mullen, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on the Other Voices event to be held in Belfast between Thursday 26 and Saturday 28 October 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the update on the Other Voices event planned for October 2017. - Note the opportunities for youth and community engagement in all of the events.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Members may be aware that Other Voices began as a one-off music event in a small church in the west of Ireland in 2002. Since then, it has grown to become one of the most significant music events across the island of Ireland. Its reach has extended beyond its Dingle base and the prestige attached to this event has grown since its inception. In 2013, the event was held in Derry-Londonderry as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations. In 2016, Other Voices recorded live from Austin, Texas as part of the SxSW international music event. In Summer 2017 there was an 'Other Voices' stage as part of the annual Electric Picnic concert in County Laois. The event has also been produced in New York.</p>
3.2	<p>Members will recall that at the June 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members approved financial support of £40,000 towards the 'Other Voices' event to be held in Belfast in October 2017. The organisers visited a number of potential venues in the city and decided on Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts as the hub for the concert and wraparound events. As noted in the previous Committee report, it is intended the 2017 event will be a precursor to a larger multi-annual project based in Belfast to help position the city strategically as an attractive, smart and creative city region that is a great place to live, work visit invest and do business. This is in line with the emerging City Positioning work.</p>
3.3	<p>Other Voices has attracted a range of well-known performers since its first transmission in 2002. In addition to high profile acts, it has attracted many indigenous acts and has provided a platform to highlight up-and-coming talent. The event is currently broadcast on RTE's television and digital platforms, and has had more than 16 million views and more than 7,000 followers on You Tube. It also involves a wide range of outreach and engagement activity with local residents and those involved in the culture and arts sectors.</p>
3.4	<p>Planning work for the October 2017 event in Belfast is well under way. At this stage, the following programme elements are planned:</p>
3.5	<p>Other Voices Main Stage: Four to five bands will be performing alongside headline acts and specially selected newer local acts. Acoustic performances and interviews with the acts will take place in a series of locations in and around the main venue. The main concert will take place on Saturday 28 October at 8.00pm. Access to the event will be free of charge but organisers will work with the Council and local partners to consider some type of "golden ticket" access, using local promotional channels to raise awareness</p>

	<p>and promote positive messaging around the event.</p> <p>Belfast's Edge: This is a series of talks, demonstrations, panel discussions and performances to facilitate cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral connections around the question of how Belfast's creative edge can be exploited in selling the City as a location for investment as well as a vibrant tourism destination. Attendees will include a diverse range of stakeholders from the arts, technology, creative industries, broader business interests, policy, education and the media. It will address themes and ideas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Creative Belfast' – looking at how music can contribute to building a tech community in a smart, forward-looking city. - 'Taking Charge' – a series of empowering creative sessions covering practical topics including the use of tech to help create a vision and sound; using tech to empower young entrepreneurs; plotting pathways to a career in the creative industries; creative problem-solving using hacks. - 'Making Waves' – practical talks, demonstrations and networking with creative industry experts with advice on topics such as writing, performing, editing, filming, production, digital rights, dissemination and control of content. - 'Northern Sounds' – exploring the music and tech potential of the Belfast region as a pivotal pillar in the construction of the city's strategy and its bid for 2023 European Capital of Culture.
3.6	<p>There will be an opportunity to explore how the new Belfast brand can be utilised to promote the narrative about Belfast's creative talent and potential. This event will take place in Duncairn Theatre from 10.00am - 6.00pm on Saturday 28 October. Access to the event will be free of charge, by prior registration.</p>
3.7	<p>Creative Quarter: Four community engagement events will be held in venues in North, South, East and West Belfast. These events will be targeted at young people (who will be on leave for half-term at this time). They will focus on the opportunities for skills development and employment in the creative sector as well as demonstrating the impact of technology on all walks of life. Young people will have to register to attend and organisers will work with the Council as well as local schools and youth groups to encourage participation from key target groups. Details are currently being finalised and these will include:</p>
3.8	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Creating Change – Tech for Transforming Your Community”: This event will use a ‘Hackathon’ to engage with community to tackle a local issue and collaborate with digital expertise to empower individuals to regenerate their communities. - “Creating a Safe Place Online”: This event will focus discussion on online safety, reputation and wellbeing. - “Creating an Entrepreneurial Culture”: This event aims to inspire young people to be entrepreneurs and will look at the opportunities of the tech and digital sectors in particular, in line with the employability and skills priorities. - “Creating a New Vision – the Creative Industries”: This event will explore the many opportunities within the creative industries in Belfast. <p>The format for each of the events will comprise a focused engagement session followed by live music performance by local artists. The events will take place on Thursday and Friday 26 and 27 October.</p>
3.9	
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The overall cost of the event is likely to be in the region of €200,000. The Department for Foreign Affairs (DFA) has committed €100,000 to the event. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its June meeting, agreed to allocate £40,000. The organisers are seeking additional financial support from ACNI and Tourism NI in order to meet the shortfall.</p> <p>BBC NI is providing in-kind financial support regarding transmission and the provision of outside broadcast facilities and technical crew.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The Other Voices concert and community engagement workshops are open and free of charge to all members of the community. The workshops are being held in accessible venues in North, South, East and West Belfast in order to maximise opportunities for engagement and participation.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Employability and Skills Framework: Support for Economic Inactivity and Skills Development initiatives
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Ruth Rea, Economic Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Members on the upcoming European Social Fund (ESF) kl. call and to seek approval on the proposed Council approach, subject to funding availability in the coming financial years • Seek in-principle approval to continue development work with partners on a number of Employment Academies and additional skills development initiatives for economically inactive individuals, subject to funding availability in the coming financial year • Update Members on engagement with the sector to develop a Digital Skills support programme for young people and their teachers and youth leaders • Seek approval to invest in the expansion of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre to support the growth of the legal services technologies sector.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update on the upcoming ESF funding call • Approve the recommended approach for Council with regard to the upcoming ESF funding call as outlined in 3.14-3.17, subject to funding availability in the coming financial years • Seek in-principle approval to continue development work with partners on a number of Employment Academies and additional skills development initiatives for economically inactive individuals, subject to funding availability in the coming financial year; • Approve the proposed approach for a Digital Skills Programme working in partnership with Makematic • Approve the proposal and associated budget to support the expansion of Ulster University’s Legal Innovation Centre to create a globally-recognised Centre of Excellence; • Note the approval of the activities listed above is dependent upon Legal Services agreeing a suitable form of Legal Agreement with the parties to be funded.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council, with its key partners, developed an Employability and Skills Framework for the City. This sets a number of targets around improvements in employment rates and skills levels for Belfast residents.</p>
3.2	<p>The Framework notes the need for interventions across a range of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Inactivity: deep-rooted challenge which has a disproportionate impact in some areas of the City. Economically inactive individuals often face multiple challenges in finding work, including health problems, childcare, lack of relevant skills • Upskilling of people in low-level, low-paid work: in an increasingly flexible labour market, it is important to consider how people not only move into employment but also move up the skills ladder – and have the associated benefits in terms of increased income • High skills: research indicates that there will be a growing need for higher level skills in the workplace. There is a need for greater focus to ensure greater alignment between growth areas and skills investment in order to ensure that the City remains globally competitive.

3.3	<p>The Belfast Agenda also identifies the themes of “Growing the Economy” and “Working and Learning” as two of the fundamental pillars of future City development. The Belfast Agenda includes a number of commitments including supporting an additional 50,000 jobs in the City by 2035, ensuring that every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential and increasing the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 and above skills, in line with future labour market developments.</p>
3.4	<p>Over the last year, the Council has worked with partners to develop a number of collaborative initiatives to address some of the challenges identified above. Given the scale of the challenge, activities have focused on the economically inactive at this stage. However, there have been investments across all areas. Some of the headline outcomes to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 3,600 residents have accessed employability interventions of whom approximately 750 have entered employment/self-employment • Over 550 training accreditations have been supported of which over 200 are at level two qualifications or above • Almost 4,000 young people have participated in enterprise engagement and skills development activities in schools across the City • Working in partnership with key stakeholders a range of job fairs have been held attracting over 2,800 attendees • 150 individuals have benefited from work placements across all Council departments.
3.5	<p>There are a number of emerging opportunities for Council engagement in new activity that require the authority of this Committee in order to proceed. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative investment in European Social Fund (ESF) projects to work with targeted economically inactive individuals • Development of additional “Employment Academies” in areas of job growth, including hospitality, construction and social care • Development of high growth skills area to create “niche” areas for the City. These include legal technology through the newly-established Legal Technology Centre.
3.6	<p>In order to present the “full picture” of the City challenges in this area and the proposed Council approach to address these challenges – in conjunction with partner organisations – a report will be presented to the next meeting of this Committee to give a clear overview and to set out the overall direction of travel.</p>

Collaborative investment in European Social Fund

- 3.7 The European Social Fund (ESF) provides funding for activity to help key target groups (long-term unemployed, economically inactive, those not in education, employment or training (NEETs)) to find work. On 11 September 2017, the Department for the Economy will release the final funding call for the ESF Programme 2014-2020, for projects to be delivered from April 2018 to March 2022. The available budget for this call is expected to be approximately £176 million over the four-year period, incorporating match funding from private and public sector sources.
- 3.8 The last call for projects took place in 2015 and funded projects will conclude in March 2018. Up to 65 projects are being supported across Northern Ireland with approximately 50% of these operating from and/or within the Belfast area. Members will be aware that the Council is currently match funding five of these projects (providing up to 35% of project costs). These projects are:
- LEMIS+ delivered by the LEMIS Partnership
 - Jobworks project delivered by Springboard
 - SPEC Programme delivered by Women's TEC
 - The Connect Programme delivered by Women in Business
 - Pathway to Work programme delivered by Workforce.
- 3.9 The Council is also funding a number of stand-alone projects, not currently in receipt of ESF. These are:
- Training for Employment project delivered by Lenadoon Community Forum
 - Community Employment Programme delivered by Shankill Women's Centre.
- 3.10 Across the three-year delivery timeframe (April 2015 – March 2018) these projects are expected to achieve the following outcomes:
- Around 10,000 individuals engaged into employability-related support
 - 2,000 individuals moved into employment (almost 700 jobs supported per year).
- 3.11 The Council investment over a three-year period has been £720,000 against total expenditure of over £11 million. This represents an overall cost per job of £5,500. The cost per job to the Council is £360. The rest of the match funding comes from the ESF support or from other match-funding investment.

3.12	<p>As part of the Council's due diligence process around its investment in these projects, a review was undertaken to consider the impact of the projects and to look at how future engagement with ESF could contribute to the Council's commitment to address the challenge of economic inactivity in the City. Key findings from this review included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projects have been effective in engaging the hardest to reach and those within the most deprived communities. Almost 60% of participants were from the top 10% most deprived wards • Project participants are typically presenting multiple barriers to employment including a lack of self-confidence, mental health issues, limited/no work experience, lack of affordable childcare, poor employability skills. This means that the support mechanisms need to be flexible to meet the needs of these individuals. There also needs to be better engagement with local support services e.g. healthcare providers • ESF funding can only cover costs associated with training up to Level 1 (GSCE grades D-G). This makes it difficult to address the low skills issue identified above • There is a growing challenge of Mental Health issues: while needs are increasing, there is insufficient support available to meet demand.
3.13	<p>The fact that ESF is administered by the Department for the Economy (DfE) through an open call means that the Council can only have limited influence on the selection process and funding allocations. Nonetheless, the level of resources available represents a significant investment in provision and there are opportunities to consider how the Council can work alongside selected projects as part of the solution to addressing economic inactivity in the City and the challenges set out above.</p>
3.14	<p>Officers have already been approached by a number of potential projects with a view to seeking match funding from the Council. Recognising the limitations highlighted above, as well as the need to concentrate resources on areas of most need, it is proposed that the Council continues to provide match-funding support for ESF but that it focuses investment on a small number of projects that demonstrate the potential for maximum impact, in line with Belfast Agenda commitments.</p>
3.15	<p>In order establish a transparent process for projects that may be seeking Council match-funding, it is proposed that Officers organise an information event outlining how requests will be assessed. Details of criteria will be provided. It is recommended that these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalability of delivery such as city-wide provision • Alignment of provision to local area needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of ability to deliver on targets (taking account of existing provision in the area) • Prioritising economic inactivity client groups (e.g. lone parents) • Provision of wrap-around services (e.g. health support, childcare) • Partnership/collaborative approaches • Progression routes (to further support/into employment) • Employer engagement support (enterprise support for start-up projects) • Financial sustainability • Minimum targets for helping people into employment/self-employment.
3.16	<p>The closing date for applications is 13 October 2017. At that point, project applicants will be expected to indicate that they have engaged with potential match funders albeit that the commitment is not binding until a match funding certificate is signed (this only happens once the project receives a Letter of Offer). It is therefore recommended that Officers make an assessment of projects seeking match funding from the Council based on the above criteria. A report will then be presented to a future meeting of this Committee outlining the proposed projects to be supported, including the financial allocation recommended for each.</p>
3.17	<p>It is proposed an annual funding allocation of up to £250,000 will be set aside by the Council for these match-funded projects. Based on investment in previous projects of this nature, this investment has the potential to support around 700 unemployed and economically inactive people per year to find a job. This will be an annual funding requirement, for a period of up to four years. The funding allocation has to be agreed on an annual basis, subject to performance.</p>
3.18	<p><u>Employment Academies and wraparound support</u></p> <p>One of the major shortcomings of ESF is that it can only provide training up to Level 1 and wraparound services such as personal development support or aftercare mentoring may be limited. Likewise, the level of employer-led intervention is variable across projects and small-scale project delivery agents do not have employer connections at the appropriate level. To overcome this, the Council has been working on a number of sectoral “Employment Academies”. These are targeted interventions based on available job opportunities. Employers are involved in the design process and guarantee all participants an interview for available jobs. Candidates are recruited from ESF and other employability interventions. Whereas the average employment outcomes for ESF projects are around</p>

	<p>25%, the seven Hospitality Academies delivered by the Council and its partners last year achieved an into-employment rate of 60%. This meant that, from the 100 programme participants, 60 are now in employment.</p>
3.19	<p>Based on the success of the Hospitality Academy model, officers have been approached by employers from other sectors including social care and construction. These employers are willing to provide an employment pipeline of available job opportunities and will guarantee participants an interview for the posts. There will also be a large-scale Hospitality Academy programme with a number of the flagship new hotel investments in the City over the coming six months. The Hospitality Academy alone will provide employment opportunities for up to 175 unemployed and economically inactive. In addition, the other Academy programmes (construction and social care) will help at least 100 individuals to move into employment through these interventions over the next 12 months.</p>
3.20	<p><u>Development of Digital Skills</u></p> <p>At the August 2017 meeting of City Growth & Regeneration Committee, approval was given to ring-fence a budget of £60,000 for the development of Digital Skills in young people. Officers noted that they would engage with key organisations already involved in activity in this field to look at how the Council could best support this agenda.</p>
3.21	<p>Following engagement with relevant providers, there is an opportunity to add value to a regional Digital Skills campaign being delivered by Makematic and funded by Bank of Ireland. This programme aims to build the capacity of Teachers and Teaching Assistants in order to improve the quality of digital skills education for young people. The current programme is limited to online support, however, with additional resources from the Council, there is an opportunity to add value by supporting more schools across Belfast to access the content as well as providing in-school support and workshop sessions to share best practice.</p>
3.22	<p>The proposed added value programme would also incorporate participation by community groups and provide the opportunity for pupils to compete in digital skills challenges culminating in showcase events. It is expected that up to 200 young people will be engaged in these challenges enabling young people to practically utilise digital skills. Through this project, it is proposed that a minimum of 30 schools (primary and post primary) and community organisations across Belfast will be engaged. Development of this project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Executive's Urban</p>

	<p>Villages Programme. It will also link with the Council’s Superconnected Communities programme as well as the technology programmes proposed as part of the “Other Voices” event in Belfast at the end of October 2017 and places will be set aside in the Other Voices programme for participants from the Makematic initiative.</p>
3.23	<p><u>Legal Innovation Centre: support for expansion</u></p> <p>The Financial, Business and Professional Services sectors are identified as key growth areas within the Belfast economy. One emerging niche area within this wider sector is that of legal technology. This growth is being driven by technological advancement, globalisation and regulatory reform in the industry.</p>
3.24	<p>Belfast is already home to a number of global legal practices. Many are moving from providing back and mid-office facilities towards establishing Centres of Excellence that can service their international operations. This expertise is being developed in conjunction with local education providers – either through joint skills development initiatives or through new areas of research and development.</p>
3.25	<p>In response to growing demand, Ulster University established a Legal Innovation Centre to bring together research into the application, development and impact of new technology as well as opportunities for training current and future lawyers in legal technology skills. This is a unique collaboration between the Computer Science and Legal disciplines at the University. It was established in February 2017 and has been funded through private sector investment (Allen & Overy and Baker McKenzie) along with Invest NI. Since its launch, the Centre has gained local and international recognition, and is already working with both foreign direct investors and indigenous legal companies.</p>
3.26	<p>The private sector funding has supported researchers to work on a number of targeted projects. However this means that there is limited scope for future business development to support the future growth of the Centre. Following engagement with the Centre Management Team, an opportunity has been identified for the Council to invest in the expansion of the Centre.</p>
3.27	<p>This investment would align with the Council’s aspirations to support the development of key growth sectors through the expansion of indigenous companies as well as attracting new foreign direct investors. The Committee recently agreed that this should be one of the priority areas of focus within the Committee Plan. This would involve an investment of</p>

	<p>£50,000 to support a research resource for a period of 18 months. The Council investment would be matched by resources from other private and public sector partners. The deliverables from this investment will include an increase in the number of local and international clients; enhanced international profile of the Centre and opportunity for the City to develop a niche area of expertise (this is currently the only Centre of its type in the UK) in a sector that demonstrates significant growth potential in highly-skilled and well-paid jobs. There will also be opportunities for collaboration with local ICT and legal companies, allowing them to diversify and develop niche skills and products which may be able to be exported to other markets. This is a similar model to the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) which is based at Titanic Quarter and Members recently received a presentation on the work of this organisation.</p>
3.28	<p>Members will be aware that FDI investors have a “wish list” of elements that they look for in a potential investment location. These include talent as well as research and innovation capability as well as issue such as quality of life and accessibility. 70% of research and development undertaken in the local universities is of world-class standard. In some disciplines (e.g. cyber), this figure stands at 90%. The Council support will help towards the development of a Centre for Excellence which will help to attract more investment into Belfast.</p>
3.29	<p><u>Equality and good relations implications:</u></p> <p>The investment to support economic inactivity will focus on under-represented groups as well as disadvantaged groups. Efforts will be made to ensure that programme delivery takes place all across the City and that it is accessible to all. Economic Development Officers and delivery partners will work closely with the Council’s Equality and Good Relations Officers to ensure compliance.</p>
3.30	<p><u>Financial and resources implications:</u></p> <p>The financial implications of each of the elements above is as follows:</p>
3.31	<p><u>European Social Fund</u></p> <p>It is proposed that up to £250,000 is set aside from within the departmental budgets for 2018/2019 to support the priority projects, subject to agreement of the budget estimates for this coming year. Please note the levels of funding proposed are in line with current departmental funding levels. It is also proposed that in-principle support of £250,000 match funding is set aside for a further three years (2019/2020; 2020/2021 and 2021/2022),</p>

subject to satisfactory performance and subject to budget availability in each of those financial years.

Employment Academies Support

It is proposed that a maximum of £250,000 is set aside for the Employment Academies for the financial year 2018/2019. Please note the levels of funding proposed are in line with current departmental funding levels. This will be an in-principle allocation, subject to partner engagement and the ability to deliver employment opportunities in each of the sectors. It will also be subject to agreement on the budget estimates for the coming year, as part of the rates process.

Digital Skills

Budget allocation for digital skills has already been approved by City Growth & Regeneration Committee. The £60,000 budget allocated for this activity is available within the existing Departmental 2017/18 budgets.

Legal Innovation Centre

A budget of £50,000 is required to support the expansion of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre. The financial resources have been set aside as part of the programme to support key growth sectors in the 2017/2018 Departmental budget.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2017/18
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan; Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	David Orr; Business Manager, Development Department

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report presents the Quarter 1 financial position for the City Growth Regeneration Committee including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack which contains a summary of the financial indicators and an Executive Summary (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

3.0	Main report
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>Current and Forecast Financial Position 2017/18</p> <p>The Quarter 1 position for the Committee is an underspend of £128k (2.6%), with the forecast year end position being an underspend of £461k (2.9%) which is within the acceptable tolerance which is 3%.</p> <p>The main reasons for the Committee underspend relate to vacant posts across a number of services and receipt of additional income in Off Street Car Parking.</p> <p>Overall Council Financial Position</p> <p>An overall forecast year end position for the Council is an underspend of £1.15m, which is 0.9% of the budgeted net expenditure. This was reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 18th August 2017. In addition to this, the LPS forecast was a favourable variance of £893k. As more work is required to ensure the robustness of these Q1 forecast underspends, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decided that no further re-allocations should be considered until Quarter 2.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The report sets out the Q1 position.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Quarter 1 Performance Report



City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Quarterly Finance Report

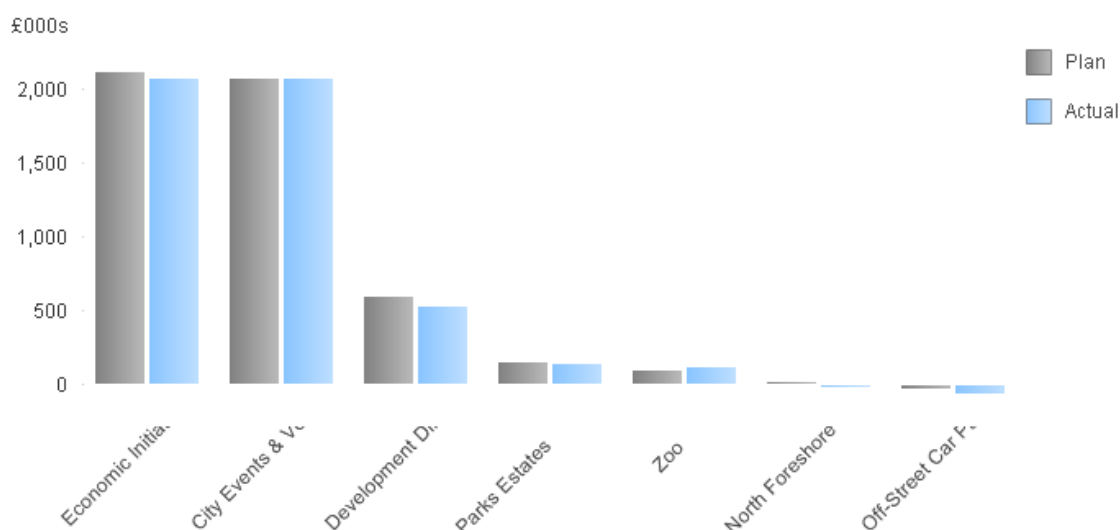
Report Period: Quarter 1, 2017/18

Dashboard

Quarter 1, 2017/18

Revenue Section							Page
Committee	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	3 - 5
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt		(42)	(2.0)%		(300)	(3.4)%	
City Events & Venues		0	0.0%		0	0.0%	
Development Directorate		(67)	(11.5)%		(66)	(2.4)%	
Parks Estates		(13)	(9.0)%		10	2.7%	
Zoo		24	27.7%		55	6.0%	
North Foreshore		(4)	(100.0)%		0	0.0%	
Off-Street Car Parking		(26)	99.2%		(160)	16.4%	
Total		(128)	(2.6)%		(461)	(2.9)%	

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



The **City Growth and Regeneration Committee** budget is under spent by £128k, or 2.6% of its net budgeted expenditure at the end of Quarter 1.

The Committee's budget is made up of the following profit centres:

- ✚ **Economic Initiatives** (DEV):- Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts; Economic Development; Markets; European Unit and International Relations
- ✚ **City Events and Venues** (DEV): City Events; Belfast Waterfront; Ulster Hall
- ✚ **Development Directorate** (DEV): Urban Development; Business Research and Development; Directorate
- ✚ **Estates Management** (PKS/CNS): Malone House; Belfast Castle; Stables Restaurant; Adventure Playground
- ✚ **Zoo** (PKS/CNS)
- ✚ **North Foreshore** (PPD)
- ✚ **Off Street Car Parking** (H&ES/CNS)

Economic Initiatives & International Development (EIID) is under spent by £41,877 (2.0%), Development Directorate is under spent by £67,345 (11.5%); Parks Estates Management are under spent by £13,121 (9.0%) North Foreshore is under budget by £3,750 (0%) and Off Street Car Parking is under budget by £26,304 (99.2%) whilst the Zoo is over budget by £23,817 (27.7%). City Events & Venues is on budget at the end of Quarter 1.

There are six main areas that give rise to the current overall £128k (2.6%) under spend within the City Growth and Regeneration Committee budget at the end of Quarter 1. These are as follows:

1. Gross Income was £31k more than budgeted income to the end of June 2017. This variance relates to more income being received than planned in Directorate (£24k); and Off Street Car Parking (£59k) which are partly offset by less income than planned in the Parks Estates (£14k), EIID (£7k) and the Zoo (£31k).
2. Employee costs are £194k less than budget with under spends in Development Directorate (£73k), Parks Estates (£7k); EIID (£165k) as a result of vacant posts which are offset by additional employee costs in the Zoo (£27k) and Off Street Car Parking (£24k).

3. Premises expenditure was £21k less than budget with under spends in the Parks Estates (£16k) and City Events and Venues (£10k) being offset by additional costs in Off Street Car Parking. These are primarily profiling issues that will self correct during the financial year.
4. Supplies and Services expenditure was £10k over budget. Additional expenditure in Directorate (£29k) and EIID (£18k) is offset by an under spend in the Zoo (£40k). These are primarily profiling issues which will self correct during the financial year.
5. Subscriptions and Grants, in EIID, are over budget by £81k. This is a profiling issues which will self correct during the financial year.
6. Miscellaneous costs are £27k over budget. This relates to unbudgeted expenditure in relation to compensation claims in the Zoo (13k) and EIID (£15k).

Service Analysis

**EIID are under spent by £41,877 at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £2,101,602; Actual Net Expenditure: £2,059,725).**

EIID is under spent by £42k. This relates to an under spend of £165k within employee costs relating to vacant posts which is offset by additional expenditure in relation to an unbudgeted compensation claim £15k; additional expenditure of supplies and services £18k and additional expenditure in Grants £80k which are profiling issues and will self correct in this financial year.

**City Events and Venues are on budget at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £2,058,950; Actual Net Expenditure: £2,059,083).**

Both City Events and City Venues are on budget at the end of Quarter 1

**Directorate are under spent by £67,345 at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £586,617; Actual Net Expenditure: £519,271)**

The under spend within Directorate is attributable to decreased spend within employee costs as a result of vacant posts and posts under review.

**The Zoo is over spent by £23,817 at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £85,875; Actual Net Expenditure: £109,692)**

Net expenditure at quarter one is £23k over budget due primarily to reduced income of £30k due to shop sales and catering commission being less than anticipated. Employee costs are £27k over budget however reduction in expenditure and supplies of £40k offset some of these issues.

**Parks Estates are under spent by £13,121 at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £146,111; Actual Net Expenditure: £132,990)**

Parks Estates net expenditure at quarter one is under spent by £13k and is due to under spends due to vacant posts, and reduced spending on supplies

**Off Street Parking is under budget by £26,304 at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: -£26,503; Actual Net Expenditure: -£52,807)**

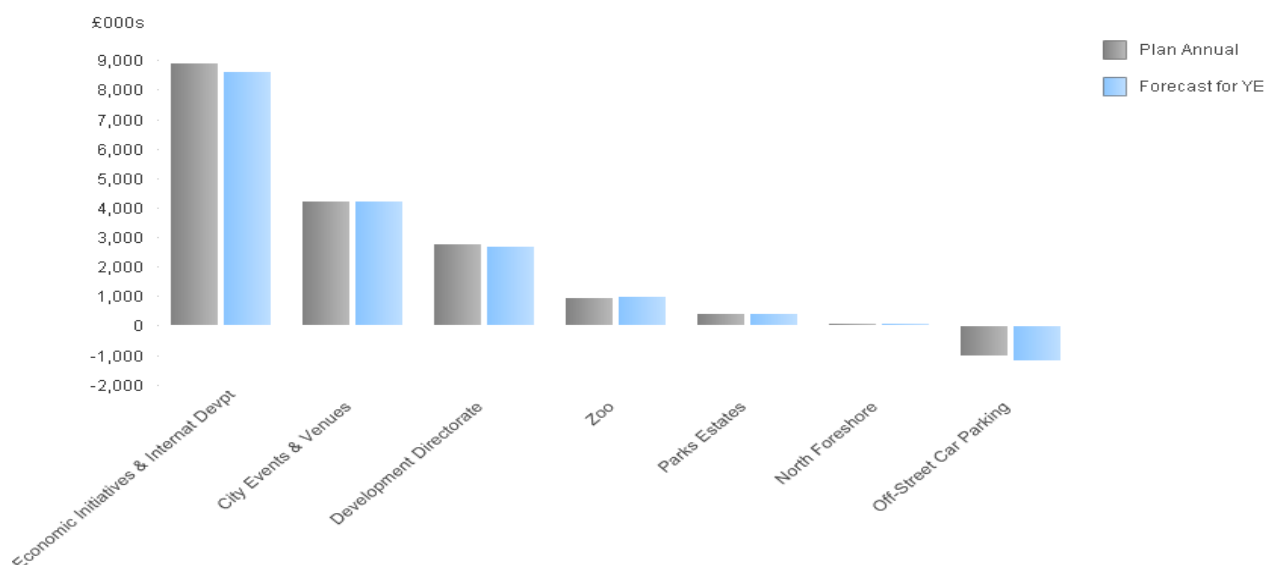
Off Street Car Parking

Net Expenditure at Quarter One was £26k ahead of anticipated income due to an additional car park since time of estimate(Corporation Street)., license agreement for free Car Parks and general increase in income overall.

**The North Foreshore is under budget by £3,750 at the end of Quarter 1.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £3,750; Actual Net Expenditure: Nil)**

Net expenditure is £4k less than budget at the end of Quarter 1 and relates to delays regarding roadworks and landscaping of the site

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Forecast for Year End



It is forecast that the **City Growth and Regeneration Committee** budget will be under spent by £461k, or 2.9%, of its budgeted net expenditure of £16.2 million at year end.

The Economic Initiatives and International Development service are forecast to be under spent by £300k (3.4%) at year end as a result in delays in filling additional new posts and programme costs as a result in vacant posts and delays in procurement processes.

The City Events and Venues service is forecast to be on budget at year end.

Directorate are forecast to be under spent by £66k (2.4%) at year end as a result of vacant posts.

The **Zoo** is forecast to be £55k (6%) over spent at year end as the income for the shop and catering commission is not performing as per targets.

Parks Estates is forecast to be over spent by £10k (2.7%) at year end due to the underperformance against income targets.

North Foreshore is forecast to be on budget at year end.

Off Street Car Parking

It is forecast that Off Street Car parking will be £160k (16.4%) under budget due to additional income in relation to an additional car park since time of estimate(Corporation Street)., license agreement for free Car Parks and general increase in income overall.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Section Expenditure Budgetary Analysis & Forecast

	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2016/2017 £000s	Forecast for Y/E at P3 £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	% Variance
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	2,102	2,060	(42)	(2.0)%	8,881	8,581	(300)	(3.4)%
City Events & Venues	2,059	2,059	0	0.0%	4,209	4,209	0	0.0%
Development Directorate	587	519	(67)	(11.5)%	2,752	2,686	(66)	(2.4)%
Parks Estates	146	133	(13)	(9.0)%	374	384	10	2.7%
Zoo	86	110	24	27.7%	913	968	55	6.0%
North Foreshore	4	(0)	(4)	(100.0)%	15	15	0	0.0%
Off-Street Car Parking	(27)	(53)	(26)	99.2%	(976)	(1,136)	(160)	16.4%
Total	4,956	4,828	(128)	(2.6)%	16,167	15,706	(461)	(2.9)%

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