

# Public Document Pack

## BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

### SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Wednesday, 1st March, 2017 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council Meeting (Pages 1 - 8)
5. Official Announcements
6. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 9 - 50)
7. People and Communities Committee (Pages 51 - 90)
8. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 91 - 114)
9. Licensing Committee (Pages 115 - 124)
10. Planning Committee (Pages 125 - 148)
11. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 149 - 152)
12. Notices of Motion

a) **Review of Enforcement Services**

Proposed by Councillor Boyle,  
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

“Belfast City Council is responsible for a range of different enforcement services, including such things as on-street drinking, management of litter and addressing noise. It is important that, when carrying out enforcement duties in respect of these types of issues, our approach operates within the principles of consistency, proportionality and fairness, recognising the rights of all individuals.

This Council, therefore, agrees that it is timely for a review to be undertaken of enforcement activities across relevant Council Departments to ensure that such services are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs and demands across the City.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the  
People and Communities Committee)**

b) **Support for Amateur Boxing**

Proposed by Councillor McVeigh,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

“This Council has demonstrated its support for amateur boxing in Belfast by developing and resourcing its boxing strategy.

This Council recognises the good results that this strategy has delivered, particularly through its support for sports officers who work specifically with clubs across Belfast.

We believe it is imperative that this support continues and calls on the Council to reaffirm its commitment to supporting amateur boxing in Belfast.

In particular, we call on the Council to continue to employ those sports officers who currently do work to support clubs and assist them in the work they carry out with boxing clubs.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the  
People and Communities Committee)**

c) **Irish Presidential Elections**

Proposed by Councillor O’Hara,  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

“This Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, 2017, rejected a motion which would have extended voting rights in Oireachtas elections to all Irish citizens living outside the Republic’s borders.

The Council agrees to rescind so much of that decision as relates to Irish Presidential elections and, accordingly:

“Agrees that Belfast is a rich and diverse city containing many different nationalities. Many consider themselves as British, others Irish and citizens of the Irish nation.

Recognising and respecting all traditions, this Council urges the Irish government to implement the recommendations of the constitutional convention and to allow the citizens of Belfast to participate in Irish Presidential elections.”

Signed by the Undernoted Members:

The Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Campbell  
Councillor Ciaran Beattie  
Councillor Stephen Corr  
Councillor Emma Groves  
Councillor JJ Magee  
Councillor Gerard McCabe  
Councillor Jim McVeigh  
Councillor Charlene O’Hara

Councillor Janice Austin  
Councillor Mary Clarke  
Councillor Matt Garrett  
Councillor Deirdre Hargey  
Councillor Stephen Magennis  
Councillor Mary McConville  
Councillor Mairead O’Donnell  
Councillor Séanna Walsh

**(To be considered by the Council)**

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Chief Executive

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## Council

### MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 1st February, 2017  
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); the High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Convery, McCoubrey, McGimpsey; L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Clarke, Collins, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

#### Reading of Scriptures

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Lord Mayor read a passage from the Scriptures.

#### Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

#### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen Browne, McKee, R. Patterson and Spence.

#### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston),  
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 3rd January be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st February, 2017**

**Request to Address the Council**

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Councillor McCusker to allow a deputation to address the Council on the important role being played by youth services in the City, in the context of the motion which he would be proposing later in the meeting on proposed cuts in resources for that sector.

The Council agreed to accede to the request and, accordingly, Ms. M. Fullerton, a youth worker with Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club, Mr. S. Hughes, a youth worker with St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre, and Mr. A. Heagney, a member of St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre, were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Heagney outlined various difficulties which he had faced in the past and highlighted the significant role which the St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre and the staff employed there had played in providing him with new opportunities and improving his overall quality of life.

Mr. Hughes reviewed the extensive work which was being undertaken across the City in terms of youth service provision. He explained that the proposed cuts in funding for that sector would affect over 130 posts and 53 projects in Belfast and would have a detrimental impact on young people, families and communities. He paid tribute to the Council and other organisations for their work around community relations, good relations and community safety and pointed out that that work had the potential to be affected, through, for example, reduced engagement on behalf of the youth sector. He concluded by requesting the Council to support the youth sector in its campaign to oppose the proposed cuts in its resources.

The deputation were thanked by the Lord Mayor and they left the meeting.

The Council noted the information which had been provided and that Members would have an opportunity to discuss the issue later in the meeting.

**Official Announcements**

**Expression of Best Wishes**

At the request of Councillor Copeland, the Lord Mayor agreed to forward a letter to the Police Service of Northern Ireland officer who had been injured recently in a shooting incident on the Crumlin Road wishing him a speedy recovery.

**Change of Membership on Outside Body**

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Democratic Unionist Party indicating that it wished to replace Alderman Sandford with Councillor Dorrian on the EastSide Partnership.

The Council approved the aforementioned change.

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st February, 2017**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hussey,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 6th, 20th and 26th January be approved and adopted.

**Amendment**

**Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2017/2018**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 26th January, under the heading "Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2017/2018", be amended to provide that the District Rate should increase by 1.61% in the 2017/2018 financial year, based on:

- i. no membership fee being paid to NILGA;
- ii. a sum of £75,000 being committed to the Small Business Service (Belfast Agenda); and
- iii. a sum of £147,000 being committed to the Community Grants Scheme.

On a vote by show of hands, eleven Members voted for the amendment and forty-one against and it was declared lost.

**Director of Organisational Development**

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that Mrs. J. Minne, Director of Organisational Development, would be leaving the Council in due course to take up employment with the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

On behalf of the Council, he thanked Mrs. Minne for the contribution which she had made during her twenty-four years with the Council and wished her well in her new role.

**Arrangements for the Future Management of Human Resources**

At the request of Alderman Convery, the Chief Executive confirmed that, following the resignation of the Director of Organisational Development and in the context of the decision to appoint a senior Human Resources post, the wider organisational design implications would be discussed with the Party Groups and with

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the Budget and Transformation Panel, as well as bringing options back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 6th, 20th and 26th January were approved and adopted.

**People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Councillor Garrett,  
Seconded by Councillor Heading and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 4th, 10th and 24th January be approved and adopted.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Moved by Councillor Graham,  
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 11th and 24th January be approved and adopted.

**Licensing Committee**

Moved by Councillor Armitage,  
Seconded by Councillor Magennis and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 18th January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Johnston,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 17th and 24th January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.



**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st February, 2017**

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.  
Shareholders' Committee**

Moved by Councillor Walsh,  
Seconded by the High Sheriff (Alderman Haire) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 12th January be approved and adopted.

**Notices of Motion**

**Youth Services**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McCusker proposed:

"This Council notes with deep concern the proposed cuts in youth services in Belfast, which could see the loss of 131 posts in youth organisations.

The Council recognises the important and vital contribution of our youth services to Belfast and believes that these cuts will have a major negative impact on local communities.

The Council opposes these cuts in youth services and agrees to seek an urgent cross-party meeting with the Education Authority and the Minister of Education or senior Department of Education officials to raise our concerns and calls for the funding to be reinstated."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and passed.

**Car Parking Charges**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Rodgers proposed:

"This Council expresses its concern at the 16% increase in on-street car parking charges in Belfast, from £1.20 per hour to £1.40 per hour, announced by the Infrastructure Minister.

This decision will adversely affect City Centre retail trade and will advantage the out-of-town shopping centres which are able to offer free car parking.

This decision shows a complete lack of understanding by the Minister as to what local people and business have said about parking tariffs in Belfast.

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The Council is strongly opposed to this decision and agrees to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister and/or his senior officials to try to persuade them to reverse this unnecessary move.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Boyle.

The proposer declined a request from Councillor Armitage to amend his motion.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Armitage,  
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the motion, as proposed by Alderman Rodgers, be amended to provide for the deletion of the third and fourth paragraphs and the insertion of the following: “The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to ensure that there is improved consultation with all stakeholders, including the Council, regarding the transportation issues within the City, including for those who use cars and public transport and those who cycle and walk.”

On a vote by show of hands, thirty-three Members voted for the amendment and nine against and it was declared carried.

The motion, as amended, was thereupon put to the meeting as the substantive motion and passed.

**Irish Presidential Elections**

At the request of Councillor O’Hara, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the motion standing in her name be withdrawn from the agenda.

**Review of Enforcement Services**

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the motion standing in his name be withdrawn from the agenda.

Lord Mayor

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Chairperson

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## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 17th February, 2017

### MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hussey (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);  
Aldermen Convery and Rodgers;  
Councillors Attwood, Clarke, Corr, Craig, Graham,  
Hargey, Hutchinson, Jones, Long, McAllister, McCabe,  
McVeigh, O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh

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

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 6th, 20th and 25th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

### Apologies

No apologies were reported.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Restricted Items

**The Information contained in the following five reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014**

#### **City Centre Investment Fund**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the next phase of the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) which had been set up in June 2015 to support projects which aligned with the principles and priorities set out in the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The previous parameters and pilot projects, including strategy acquisitions and investment in funds to leverage more private sector money were noted.

However, in the context of the urgent need to bring Grade A Offices forward in the city centre as soon as possible the Committee, after discussion, agreed the following:

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1. That a proportion of the CCIF should be used to support the development of Grade A Offices, and potentially at a later stage private residential development, where market failure was identified;
2. The due diligence and decision making process;
3. The timetable for a call for sites; and
4. That a more detailed report on criteria, risk parameters and due diligence would be submitted to the March meeting.

**Capital of Culture**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the potential of the submission of a bid to become the UK host for the 2013 European Capital of Culture.

After discussion, the Committee:

- granted approval for officers to explore the potential of submitting a bid to become the UK host for the 2023 European Capital of Culture;
- approved the possibility of a joint bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council; and
- noted that the funding of Belfast City Council's contribution was included as part of the Quarter 3 Finance Report which would be considered at today's meeting.

**Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2016/17**

The Committee considered a report which presented the Quarter 3 financial position for the Council, including a forecast of the year end outturn. It included also a report pack which contained a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary. It also provided a more detailed explanation of the each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

The Departmental year end forecast was a net year end under spend of £2,152k which represented a variance of 1.6% of the annual net expenditure budget. The Committee had agreed, at its meeting on 18th November, 2016, to cap in year departmental cash limits at the Quarter 2 forecast levels to offset the rates clawback advised by Land and Property Services (LPS). The current LPS district rate clawback forecast was £2,024k which was a reduction of £130k at the Quarter 2 forecast.

After applying the rates clawback of £2,024k to the forecast departmental underspend of £2,152k, there would be a balance of £128k of the departmental underspend remaining. Given that that was a small balance based on a forecast position, it was recommended that that should not be considered for reallocation at this stage.

As previously referred to in the Quarter 2 report, the programming of the capital expenditure relating to the capital programme meant that there was a forecast underspend of £657k in the capital finance budget. That underspend would be available for reallocation as non-recurrent expenditure.

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After discussion the Committee:

- noted the forecast departmental position, capital financing position and rates clawback position at Quarter 3;
- agreed to ring fence the forecast departmental underspend of £2,152k to finance the forecast rates clawback of £2,024k, with any balance being allocated to general reserves;
- agreed that the forecast capital financing underspend of £657k be re-allocated to specified reserves for the following purposes:
  - £294k for the Community Grants shortfall for 2017/18
  - £100k for the City Wide Tribunal Service for 2017/18. The payment of the £100k to the group would be subject to a further report to the Committee on the receipt and assessment of an application for funding which would detail the achievements to be delivered as well as the plans in place to attract levered funding; and
  - the balance of £263k to be used for a potential European Capital of Culture bid.

**Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.

After discussion, the Committee:

- (1) Olympia – noted the positive feedback which had been received in relation to the new Olympia Centre and the headline figures regarding the usage of the new centre as outlined at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, which evidenced the impact of the Leisure Programme and was a testament to the ambition of Members to transform the city's leisure estate;
- (2) Robinson/Clonduff - noted that, the previous month, it had agreed that "*consideration be given to the possibility of providing a temporary building in the locality following the demolition of the Clonduff Community Centre*" for groups who were due to be displaced following the closure of the centre.

Noted an update provided by the Director of Property and Projects which indicated that, since the time of writing the report, all of the Groups which used the Clonduff Community Centre had now been secured alternative provision within the surrounding area. It was agreed that engagement would continue with the Groups and that the arrangements would be kept under review.

- (3) Andersonstown – noted the proposed closure date, that is, 28th May, for the current centre, subject to planning, and that Council Officers were now working in partnership with GLL to develop a decant plan to ensure continuity of provision of existing centre users. A full communications and engagement plan was being drawn up and Members would be kept up to date on progress.

Noted that a settlement with the Ulster Bank had now been agreed in principle.

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- (4) Templemore – agreed the proposed management and government arrangements for Templemore as outlined at s 3.11 - 3.14 of the report;
- (5) Avoniel – noted that discussions were continuing with the Education Authority, local Councillors and community services staff in relation to the interim location for the play centre and that updates would be brought back to the Committee in due course.

**Giant's Park – North Foreshore**

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to enter into appropriate additional legal agreements with the Council's existing joint venture partner, Renewable Power Systems Ltd (RPS), at Giant's Park, North Foreshore. The Committee was advised that RPS currently operated plant for the production of electricity from landfill gas at Giant's Park. RPS had submitted a proposal to utilise additional biogas fuel, imported from alternative landfill gas/anaerobic digestion projects in order to generate additional electricity that would augment income to the Council derived from the decreasing on-site methane fuel source created by the former landfill use.

After discussion, the Committee granted approval to the Director of Property and Projects to enter into such additional legal agreements with Renewable Power Systems Ltd, subject to detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and the City Solicitor, that would maximise returns to the Council whilst protecting the longer term requirement to attract other viable Cleantech developers to the Giant's Park, North Foreshore.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion**

**Notice of Motion – Donations to Political Parties - Response**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, had passed the following motion on Donations to Political Parties, which had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown:

**"This Council notes a motion passed in March, 2016, regarding the transparency of donations made to political parties, recognises the importance which the citizens of Belfast place on being able to trust their Elected Representatives to work for the common good, further recognises the corrupting influence which money can have on the political decision- making process and considers it unacceptable that donations to political parties continue to remain secret in Northern Ireland.**

**The Council notes correspondence which was received from the previous Secretary of State, dated 5th April, 2016, stating that the time was not appropriate to move to full transparency, however, given current low levels of public confidence in transparency of Government, it calls on the new Secretary of State to immediately lift the exemption to reveal all declared donations to political parties since January 2014 and calls also on all political parties to voluntarily publish donations from this time."**



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It was reported that a response had now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State. The response welcomed the Council's motion and confirmed that the Secretary of State had written to the Northern Ireland political parties earlier in January inviting their views on moving to full transparency and stating his desire to progress the matter.

The Committee noted the response from the Secretary of State.

**Notice of Motion – Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme - Response**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, had passed the following motion on the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, which had been proposed by Alderman Ruth Patterson and seconded by Councillor Heading:

**“This Council notes the serious public concern amongst our constituents in relation to financial squander around the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.**

**The Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State, as public representatives, highlighting the huge public interest in relation to this matter and, accordingly, requests that he initiates a full public inquiry, pursuant to his discretion contained within Section 1 of the Inquiries Act 2005.**

**The Council agrees also to write to the Joint First Minister, Arlene Foster, expressing our belief, as a Council, that she should step aside pending a full public inquiry into this extraordinarily serious matter and the allegations of corruption which have been made by a former Government Minister from her own Party.”**

The Council had agreed also “to write to the Joint First Minister, Arlene Foster, expressing its belief, as a Council, that she should step aside pending a full public inquiry into this extraordinary serious matter and the allegations of corruptions which have been made by a former Government Minister from her own Party.”

A response had now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State. The response affirmed the Secretary of State's view that the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme was a devolved matter and that it should be the subject of an independent inquiry established by the devolved institutions. The Secretary of State had welcomed the establishment of such an enquiry and considered it to be an important step in building confidence in the institutions.

The response stated also that the Secretary of State was encouraging full co-operation with the inquiry and hoped that it would quickly and effectively establish the facts around the Scheme. It added that the UK Government would do everything in its power to support the inquiry.

Noted.

**Notice of Motion – Concessionary Travel Pass – Response**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 3rd January, the Council had passed the following motion on the Concessionary Travel Pass, which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor McCusker:

**"This Council notes the recent establishment of the Smart Pass Equality Campaign, endorses its call for the full fare concessionary travel pass to be issued to all people who are unable to drive for medical reasons and agrees to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Finance urging them to implement this extension as soon as possible."**

The Democratic Services Manager reported that responses had now been received by both Ministers. Minister Hazzard stated that, currently, anyone who had a driving licence refused or revoked on medical grounds could avail of a half fare travel concession and pointed out that everyone in Northern Ireland could avail of full fare concessionary travel once they reach age of 60. The Minister added that, whilst he was sympathetic towards extending the Concessionary Fares Scheme to provide fare concessionary travel for those people who are under the age of 60 and are unable to drive on medical grounds, there were already numerous competing priorities for resources across his Department. As such, an extension to the concessionary fares scheme could not be considered at this time.

Minister Ó Muilleoir had reiterated the comments which had been made by the Minister for Infrastructure, that a person who had a driving licence refused or revoked on medical grounds could avail of a half fare travel concession and that everyone in Northern Ireland could avail full fare concessionary travel once they reached the age of 60. He concluded by recommending that the Council should, in future, liaise with the Minister for Infrastructure around the concessionary fare scheme, as that issue fell within his area of responsibility.

Noted.

**Governance**

**Consultation on a Revision of the Northern Ireland  
Local Government Code of Conduct**

The Committee was advised that the Department for Communities had issued a consultation document in relation to some limited revisions to the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. Responses to the consultation were to be submitted by the 28th February, 2017.

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The Democratic Services Manager reported that, essentially, the proposed revisions fell into two categories:

**Amendments to Part 3 – The Principles**

1. It is proposed that the Principle of Conduct should be amended to better reflect the content and working of the MLA code.
2. The current principle of “Public Duty” has been removed and has been added as an additional rule under Part 4 of the code.
3. Paragraph 3.2 of the code is amended to clarify that the Principles are now considered to be aspirational not enforceable on their own, in line with the MLA code.

**Amendments to Part 8 – Decision Making**

Part 8 of the code has been amended to clarify that Rules 8.1 (a) to (h) will apply to all Council decisions and that, in addition, Rules 8.1 (i) to (l) will apply only to quasi-judicial decisions (for example planning and licensing) and to decisions on making appointments and the awarding of contracts.

He reported that the draft Council response, as set out below, welcomed those amendments to the code:

**Appendix 3**

**Draft Response to the Review of the Northern Ireland Local Government  
Code of Conduct for Councillors**

**Question 1**

Belfast City Council agrees that all public representatives in Northern Ireland should be held to the same level of ethics with regard to behaviour in public office and therefore supports the changes to the proposed Principles contained in the Councillors’ Code, to bring them into line with those contained in the MLA Code.

**Question 2**

Belfast City Council supports the recommendation to make the current Principle of “Public Duty” an enforceable rule under the Councillors’ Code.

**Question 3**

Belfast City Council agrees that all public representatives in Northern Ireland should be held to the same level of ethics with regard to behaviour in public office and therefore

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supports the changes to the Councillors' Code, to make the Principles aspirational rather than enforceable, in line with those contained in the MLA Code.

**Question 4**

Belfast City Council supports this recommendation in that it these rules relating to decision-making should apply to all decisions taken by Councillors in meetings or when reaching decisions regarding the business of the Council.

**Question 5**

Belfast City Council supports this recommendation in that it these rules relating to decision-making should only apply to quasi-judicial decisions, decisions in making appointments and decisions on awarding contracts. The Council believes that the proposed changes will assist Councillors in being clear when the more onerous rules regarding lobbying or advocating for a certain position should apply.

The Committee approved the draft response to the Review of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Capital Programme Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The Council's Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report outlines highlights of current status of projects under the Programme; projects recommended to be moved/added to the Capital Programme and a number of project updates.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

**General**

- **Note the update in relation to the Capital Programme as outlined in 3.1 and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital project (see 3.1)**

**Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme**

- **Agree that the City Cemetery – Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £50,000 to be allocated (see 3.3). The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are also asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.**
- **Agree that the following projects are moved to Stage 2 - Uncommitted on the Capital Programme – in addition to the ongoing works to create a new exhibition space on the ground floor of the City Hall these projects will help to provide a seamless experience for visitors both inside and outside the City Hall**
  - **City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph – Upgrade and Enhancements – OBC to be worked up and brought back to the Diversity Group and Committee for further consideration (see 3.6)**
  - **City Hall – Additional toilet provision, Changing Places Facility and Family Room - OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (see 3.7)**
- **Agree that the following project is added to the Capital Programme as Stage 1 – Emerging Project - Berlin Wall Installation - SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (see 3.8)**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Council’s rolling Capital Programme is a significant programme with over £185m of projects recently completed or currently underway. Members are asked to note the updates under the Capital Programme since the last update report in June.**

***Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion***

- the new £21.7m leisure facility at Olympia which opened in January 2017

***Projects currently on the ground***

- Phase 2 of the £40million Connswater Community Greenway
- the £3.7million upgrade of the Tropical Ravine – it is anticipated that works will be completed early in 2017
- 2nd phase of the works at Olympia which will include the demolition of the existing centre which is well underway and the creation of the new Boulevard and playground and works to the pitches
- City Hall Works to create the new dedicated exhibition and visitor space which is due to open to the public in May

**Projects at tender preparation stage**

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including the remaining sites under the pitches strategy (Cherryvale and Falls), alleygating phase 4 with the installation of the gates due to commence in the summer, works at Skegoneil and Falls Park, Cathedral Gardens and the HLF bid for City Cemetery

**Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme**

- 3.2 **Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme.**

**Move to Stage 3 – Committed**

Project	Overview	Cost
City Cemetery – Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1	Memorial to permanently mark PlotZ1 in the City Cemetery. This project has emerged out of the Falls Park Masterplan and has been requested to be added via the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group	Maximum of £50,000

- 3.3 **City Cemetery – Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 – Members will recall that there has been a request for a**

permanent memorial to mark plot Z1 in the City Cemetery and the many babies that are buried within it. Members will appreciate that this is a sensitive and emotive issue and it should be noted that while there are no headstones or memorials in the plot there is a record of every baby buried. A public consultation has been undertaken which found overwhelming support for the installation of a permanent memorial. The Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group have requested that this project is progressed as quickly as possible given the age of the women whose babies are buried in the plot and that this is delivered in the short term. It was agreed in August 16 that this project was moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the programme. An OBC for this project has now been worked up and it is recommended that that this project is now moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £50,000. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that these projects are within the affordability limits of the Council

- 3.4 In addition Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.

**Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted**

- 3.5 Members will be aware that works are currently underway on the development of the new Exhibition Area in the City Hall which is due to open on the ground floor in May 2017. This will represent a significant enhancement of the building’s tourism offer and is projected to attract more than 70,000 visitors annually. Members are asked to note that there are two City Hall projects which are recommended to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme which, in addition to the works above, will help to provide a seamless experience for visitors both inside and outside the City Hall therefore adding to the overall experience of the city’s key civic building and focal point. Members will however appreciate the limitations of the City Hall as a listed building and the need to ensure that any new facilities/upgrades are sympathetic to the building’s overall usage and design and this is being considered as part of the Stage Approval process.

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<b>Project</b>	<b>Project overview</b>	<b>Proposed Stage</b>
City Hall	Provision of a Changing Places facility, Family Room and additional toilet provision	Stage 2- Uncommitted
City Hall	Upgrade and Improvements - West Wing Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph	Stage 2- Uncommitted

**City Hall projects**

- 3.6 Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph — Upgrades and improvements - Members will be aware that in 2012 the outdoor space at the East Entrance of the City Hall was significantly enhanced and upgraded. Coupled with the ongoing internal works this leaves the space outside the West Wing (which includes the Cenotaph) and the surrounding area to be upgraded. The area currently suffers from poor drainage, a number of the paving stones are no longer in good repair and a number of health and safety improvements are required. It is envisaged that the improvements will include drainage works, the installation of a new gate, paving and services (electrical), the provision of permanent ramps and softening the overall area with planting. The area will also be a key focal point for the end of World War 1 commemorations in 2018. Members are asked to agree that this project is now moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow the full detail, design and costings to be worked up. It is also recommended that these are brought to the Diversity Working Group as it is appreciated this group is discussing many aspects of content in the grounds of City Hall.**
- 3.7 Additional Public Toilet provision including Changing Places and Family Room**

**Members are already aware that the public toilets in the City Hall are under considerable pressure and at busy times can become extremely congested. There are no purpose built facilities for people with disabilities and the Council has frequently been requested to look at the potential of providing a Changing Places facility within the City Hall. In addition requests have also come forward in relation to the creation of a family room reflecting the Council's commitment to the Public Health Agency's Breastfeeding Welcome Here scheme and baby changing facilities accessible for males and females. Members are asked to agree that this project is now moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow the full detail, design and costings to be worked up. It is also recommended that these are brought to the Women's Steering Group for further discussion.**



**Add to Capital Programme as Stage 1 – Emerging Project**

- 3.8 Berlin Wall – Installation – the Council has been gifted a section of Berlin wall by the Senatskanzlei Berlin. The piece measures 3.6 metres high by 2.1 metres wide and weighs 3 tonnes approximately. The installation of the section forms part of the Tourism Action plan which has been agreed by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. It is recommended that this project is added to the Capital Programme with the options for the installation and interpretation worked up as part of the SOC with further detail to be brought back to the Committee in due course for consideration. At this stage there is no commitment to invest.**

**3.9 Financial & Resource Implications**

***Financial*** –The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that the City Cemetery project which is recommended to move to Stage 3 (see 3.3) is within the affordability limits

Costs for the other projects will be worked up as part of the Stage Approval process and brought back to Committee for further discussion before any decision to invest.

***Resources*** – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.

**3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Area Working Update**

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

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

- 1.1 To update Members on a number of area related issues for Members’ consideration.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to:**

#### AWG minutes

- Approve and adopt the most recent round of Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes (*South – 23rd January; West – 26th January; North – 26th January; and East – 2nd ebruary*) as attached at Appendix 1.

#### Local Investment Fund

- agree the recommended proposals as set out in 3.2 below from the South, North and East AWG in relation to the Local Investment Fund 1 and 2.
- note the LIF project (Section 3.3) which was previously been approved in principle which has been scored and has met the minimum threshold. Members are asked to agree that this is progressed to due-diligence.

### 3.0 Main report

#### KEY ISSUES

##### AREA WORKING GROUP UPDATES

- 3.1 Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (*South – 23rd January; West – 26th January; North – 26th January; and East – 2nd February*).

##### LOCAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

- 3.2 SOUTH AWG – Members have been previously advised that the South AWG at its special meeting on the 25th May in relation to the discussion on Alleygating Phase 4 had proposed that *'once South Belfast's allocation of £140,000 under Phase IV had been reached, the remaining cost be met from the Local Investment Fund, subject to officers confirming that the installation of alley gates complied with the requirements of that Fund'*. Officers subsequently advised the South AWG that alleygates are Council assets. As such they could not be funded under LIF and could only be taken forward under the Capital Programme and that the South AWG could consider de-committing the amount required to fund the additional gates from their LIF monies and that the gates could then be taken forward under the Capital Programme (funded by the decommitted LIF monies). This was proposed by the South AWG and agreed by Committee in August 2016.

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The South AWG was presented with an update on Alleygates Phase 4 at its meeting on 23 January and agreed to de-commit its remaining LIF1 and LIF2 budget (£47,900 in total) to fund the additional alleygates.

**EAST AWG – The East AWG at its meeting on 2 February agreed to allocate an additional £20,000 towards Towell House (ELIF2-03), giving it a total allocation of £95,000.**

Ref No	Project	£ Amount	Recommendation from AWG
ELIF2-03	Towell House	Additional	Underspend to be transferred from ELIF008 – Walkway Community Association

**NORTH AWG – The North AWG, at its meeting on 26th January, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their LIF**

Ref No	Project	£ Amount	Recommendation from AWG
<i>NLIF2-08</i>	<i>Seaview Primary School</i>	<i>£40,000</i>	<i>To be withdrawn from the LIF programme with the monies to be re-allocated in the North AWG</i>
NLIF2-18	Holy Family Parish Church*	£15,000	In principle funding
NLIF2-19	Women's Tec*	£31,667	In principle funding
NLIF073/ NLIF2-20	Jennymount Church	£40,000	Additional allocation to NLIF073 which had previously received £24k Re-allocation from NLIF2-08 - Seaview

\*Members are asked to note that this proposal is subject to going through the LIF process with the project being assessed against the prioritisation matrix – the results of this assessment will be reported back to a future AWG and Committee. All projects will be subject to the full due-diligence process agreed for LIF projects

**Projects recommended to proceed to due-diligence**

3.3 Members are asked to note that 1 LIF2 project which had previously been agreed for in principle funding (*WLIF2- MMA Regional Centre of Excellence (Whiterock)*) has now been scored by officers (see Appendix 2) and has successfully met the minimum threshold. It is recommended that these projects now proceed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process  
**BELFAST INVESTMENT FUND**

3.4 EAST AWG – In January 2016, as part of the rates setting process, it was agreed that £5m would be ringfenced to support BIF projects in the areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh which transferred across under LGR with the monies to be shared equally as these areas had not had an opportunity to have any BIF projects considered. £2m of this allocation was ringfenced to projects in the Outer East and a number of projects have been put forward for consideration by the AWG. The East AWG has therefore agreed to commission an options appraisal which will help enable the relative prioritisation of the emerging projects and fully test their feasibility.

3.5 ALLEYGATES PHASE 4

All AWGs received an update on the progress of phase 4 of the Alleygates programme which included notice of technical and legal issues associated with prioritised gates. Members agreed a way forward on a list of reserve gates and agreed to continued engagement with the Safer City Manager. A report detailing the final list of gates will be brought to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

- Financial – LIF1 - £5million and LIF2 - £4million
- Resource - Officers time to deliver projects.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## Assets Report

### Belfast Bike Scheme

The Committee granted approval for the Council to enter into the appropriate land access, licenses or similar legal arrangements in respect of the bike docking stations

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previously agreed by the Council and any future docking stations, subjects to any reports, as required, being brought to the Committee in respect of the funding arrangements.

**River Terrace – Surrender of Licence**

The Committee approved a decision by the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 13th September, 2016, to surrender a plot of land at River Terrace to the Department of Communities (DFC) by way of a 3 month written notice.

**Belfast Wi-Fi Update**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of Phase 1 of the Belfast Wi-Fi project (Public Buildings) and an update on the implementation of Phase 2 (City Centre Wi-Fi).

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Contracts for Award**

The Committee:

- (i) approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, table 1 below, through the Council's electronic procurement system; and
- (ii) granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender, and allow extensions were contracts were under review as per table 2.

**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for provision of portorage/storage services	G Millar	3 years plus option to renew for a further 2 years
Tender for development for Phase 1 of a public realm design scheme	Nuala Gallagher	12 – 14 months from appointment to submission of planning application
Tender for development of a work programme to assess the viability of a new visitor attraction for Belfast	Nuala Gallagher	18-24 months

**Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period**

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Reception, treatment and recycling of mechanical street sweepings	Nigel Grimshaw	Month by month until new contract is in place

**Belfast City Council Discretionary Policies under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) Regulations and other Related Regulations**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 To seek approval for amendments to the Council’s Discretionary Pension Policies as required the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.**

**1.2 This report makes recommendations for Belfast City Council policies on discretions to be exercised:**

- under the LGPS Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 from 1 April 2015 in respect of members of the Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme,
- under earlier LGPS Regulations (Northern Ireland) in respect of members of the LGPS who left prior to 1 April 2015, and
- under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and earlier compensation regulations.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- to approve the policies on the discretions to be exercised under the LGPS Regulations in relation to those employees who are active scheme members after 31 March 2015 and members who cease active membership after 31 March 2015, as set out in the table and
- to approve the policies on the discretions to be exercised under the LGPS Regulations in relation to those scheme members who left prior to 1 April 2015 and

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- to approve the policies on the discretions to be exercised under the Discretionary Compensation Regulations.

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1** On 16 November 2007 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed the discretionary policies Belfast City Council would operate under the provisions of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.
- 3.2** On the 19 June 2015 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed the discretionary policies Belfast City Council would operate in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations applicable at that time.
- 3.3** In March 2011, the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton, published its final report of the review of public service pensions. The report made clear that change was needed to 'make public service pension schemes simpler and more transparent, fairer to those on low and moderate earnings'.
- 3.4** As a result, it was decided that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in Northern Ireland should be reformed so that, from 1 April 2015, benefits accrue on a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) basis rather than on a final salary basis.
- 3.5** The provisions of the CARE scheme, together with the protections for members' accrued pre 1 April 2015 final salary pension rights, are contained in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.
- 3.6** As a result of the changes, Belfast City Council is required to formulate, publish and send to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee by no later than 31 July 2015 a written Statement of Policy on certain discretions under the LGPS which Belfast City Council has the power to exercise on and from 1 April 2015 in relation to members of the CARE scheme.
- 3.7** Belfast City Council is also required to (or where there is no requirement, is recommended to) formulate, publish and keep

under review a Statement of Policy on certain other discretions it may exercise:

- i. under earlier LGPS Regulations in relation to members of the LGPS who left prior to 1 April 2015, and
- ii. under the Discretionary Compensation Regulations 2003 and 2007 in relation to employees who are, or are eligible to be, members of the LGPS.

**3.8 Any amended policy under paragraph 3.7(i) above must be published and sent to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee within one month of the date the revisions to the policy were made.**

**3.9 Any amended policy under the paragraph 3.7(ii) above must be published and, in the case of a change to the policy under the Discretionary Compensation Regulations 2003, it must be published within one month of the decision to amend the policy.**

**3.10 Overall, Belfast City Council is:**

- required to formulate, publish and keep under review a written Statement of Policy on certain discretions in accordance with:
- regulation 66 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014,
- paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 3 to the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014,
- regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (in respect of leavers between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2015), and
- regulation 108 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 (in respect of leavers between 1 February 2003 and 31 March 2009)

**3.11**

- i. recommended to formulate, publish and keep under review a written Statement of Policy on one discretion under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (in respect of leavers before 1 February 2003);
- ii. required to formulate, publish and keep under review a written Statement of Policy on certain discretions in accordance with regulation 6 of the



Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, effective from 1 October 2006; and

- iii. required to formulate, publish and keep under review a written Statement of Policy on certain discretions in accordance with regulation 25 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, operative from 24 March 2003 for terminations of employment on redundancy or efficiency grounds that occurred prior to 1 April 2007.

- 3.11 In formulating and reviewing its policies under the LGPS Regulations referred to in paragraphs 3.10 (i) and (ii) above Belfast City Council is required to consider whether and to what extent the policy might lead to a serious loss of confidence in the public service.
- 3.12 In formulating and reviewing its policies under the Discretionary Compensation Regulations referred to in paragraphs 3.10 (iii) and (iv) above Belfast City Council:
  - a. is required to have regard to the extent to which the exercise of its discretionary powers (in accordance with the policy), unless properly limited, could lead to a serious loss of confidence in the public service, and
  - b. must be satisfied that the policy is workable, affordable and reasonable having regard to the foreseeable costs.

#### Consultation

- 3.13 Belfast City Council is not required to consult with the recognised trade unions when it intends to adopt new, or change existing, discretionary policies. However, it was considered appropriate to give advance notification to the recognised trade unions that this report would be considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

#### Effective Date of Policies

- 3.14 The policies on discretions to be exercised under the LGPS Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 take immediate effect from the date Belfast City Council agrees the policies, or from 1 April 2015 (if later). Any change to the policies on existing discretions to be exercised under the LGPS Regulations in respect of pre 1 April 2015 leavers take immediate effect from the date Belfast City Council agrees the policies.

- 3.15 Any change to the discretions exercised under the Discretionary Compensation Regulations 2003 or the Discretionary Compensation Regulations 2007 cannot take effect until one month after the date Belfast City Council publishes a statement of its amended policy.

**Non-fettering of Discretions**

- 3.16 The recommendations contained within this report, if approved, will form Belfast City Council policies on pension and compensation discretions. It should be noted that:

- the policies will confer no contractual rights
- subject to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 Belfast City Council will retain the right to change the policies at any time without prior notice or consultation and
- only the policy which is current at the time a relevant event occurs to an employee / scheme member will be the one applied to that employee / member.

3.17 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

3.18 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 13th February and specifically the recommendations as follows:

**Good Relations Action Plan 2017/18**

The decision of the Partnership to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approves the Good Relations Action Plan 2017/2017 for submission to the Executive Office (TEO). The Partnership also noted that the Action Plan submission would be subject to alteration and amendment during the assessing and scoring process which would be undertaken by TEO and that the Partnership would be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plan at a later date.

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**Good Relations Grants 2017/18**

The Partnership's recommendation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to approve the use of delegated authority for grants administered by the Good Relations Unit and also to issue Letters of Officer to successful applicants at risk if necessary.

**Update on the Mural Transformation Programme**

The decision to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that funding of up to £5,000 be awarded to the following groups:

- St. Patricks F.C. to erect a mural at 43 Newlodge Road on a wall which was currently used for anti-community and negative political graffiti; and
- North Belfast Alternatives to support a reimagining project in the Ballysillan Road area that aim to address issues of demarcation in the local community.

**Update on the Bonfire Programme**

The decision of the Partnership to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the options as outlined in the report be approved for 2017 programme.

*The Partnership recommended also that the 3 suggested additions be included as follows:*

1. *The review panel should be comprised of Members of the Shared City Partnership and include representation from the Independent Members and Elected Members. It was suggested that the review panel membership would be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and an independent member of the Shared City Partnership.*
2. *A process would be created to recognise best practice in cultural programmes and events amongst participating groups; and*
3. *A complimentary process would be developed for hard to reach groups that were not currently in a position to sign up to the aims of the programme. This approach would operate through an expression of interest and would provide an opportunity to develop knowledge and skills particularly among young people.*

The Committee agreed that the three suggested additions agreed at the Partnership be amended as follows:

1. The review panel should include also an independent assessor, the role of which would be considered in the first instance by the Partnership and subsequently the Committee, and that the review panel would be able to receive additional information from the key statutory agencies;
2. No change to part two;
3. That the expression of interest approach be removed from the complimentary process to be developed for hard to reach groups that were not currently in a

position to sign up to the aims of the programme; and, in addition to that complementary process, that cultural development engagement be undertaken with the community and youth groups in areas where there is a Bonfire which is not in the scheme.

### **Review and Purpose of the Diversity Working Group**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 For Members to agree the future and purpose of the Diversity Working Group.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Consider the background to the Working Group, as set out in this report, consider the options regarding its future and purpose, and decide on which option meets the current needs of the Council.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 Members will know that at an earlier meeting of the Diversity Working Group, some Members sought some clarification on the role of the group and its current purpose. Officers undertook to report back on this issue with options for the future and purpose of the Working Group.**

**3.2 Members will be aware that in 2011 the Historic Centenaries Working Group (HCWG) was established to support Members in considering how to navigate our way through the impending Decade of Centenaries that was about to begin. The Membership consisted of the Elected Members on the Good Relations Partnership (GRP) as well as an additional party nominee. The purpose of the group was to provide a space to discuss potentially sensitive and divisive issues in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, within a small group setting. It was to be separate to the GRP so as to be for elected Members only. The GRP has 16 external members and it was felt that space was needed for the political parties to have their own space to explore the issues that were coming down the line in relation to the Decade of Centenaries.**

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- 3.3** Throughout 2011, the HCWG considered numerous items in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, agreed a series of Principles under which the Decade would operate and also agreed on an outline chronology of events to be commemorated.
- 3.4** The group reported into the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and any resource allocation for events and activities was agreed at the SP+R stage.
- 3.5** In January 2012, it was agreed that the Party Group Leaders would meet with the HCWG over a defined period of time to undertake a wider exploration on the development of a more comprehensive Council Diversity Strategy. This Group was called the Joint Diversity Working Group. At that stage, the purpose of this was to undertake an intensive series of workshops to generate maximum consensus on a range of sensitive impending issues such as:
- The Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations
  - The Equality Impact Assessment on the flying of the Union Flag over City Hall
  - The Equality Impact Assessment on memorabilia and displays within City Hall
  - Further work around the Decade of Centenaries
  - The marking of Operation Banner
  - Language issues
- 3.6** This group again reported up to SP&R and considered much of what has now been agreed in relation to the Decade of Centenaries programme and the City Hall Memorabilia project, both of which are now under way.
- 3.7** During most of 2014, the group did not meet, due to many factors including elections, Local Government Reform and changes in personnel. However in late 2014, throughout 2015 and this year there have been regular meetings of what is now simply referred to as the Diversity Working Group.
- 3.8** In this latter period, the Working Group has continued to support officers on the Decade of Centenaries programme along with other commemoration type events. However, the Working Group has also become the focal point for a variety of additional requests for commemorative activity including stained glass windows and other commemorations such as the Blitz, statues and other matters.
- 3.9** Members have expressed a desire that there needs to be a refocus on the decade of centenaries and highly sensitive

issues facing the Council and the City with adequate time allowed for discussion. They also expressed the view that the representation on the current DWG does not necessarily allow this to happen effectively.

Options for the future of the Working Group

- 3.10 Option 1: Continue with the Diversity Working Group in its current format, as a way of providing a space into which Members can raise issues to do with commemorations, historic issues and other related topics.

Option 2: That the resource intensive and highly sensitive areas facing Council and the City be discussed in the Party Leaders' Group and then taken to SP&R for a decision.

Option 3: That the Diversity Working Group is brought to a conclusion and a historic Belfast working group is established to prioritise historic events and related issues. This would mean it would move away from a Good Relations focus. Good Relations would be discussed by Party Leaders and SP&R.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.11 There are no financial or resource implications as a result of the contents within this report, however a space for Members to locate requests for additional commemorative activity will need to be clarified. This should be factored into the wider review of commemorations that will be developed in the near future.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.12 The purpose of this report is to deem whether it is necessary to continue with the Diversity Working Group and as such is a structural issue. There are no Equality or Good Relations implications as a result of this report. If anything it is a sign of strength that dealing with difficult issues can be achieved within existing Council structures.”

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee agrees to adopt option three.

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On a vote by show of hands nine Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly the Committee agreed to adopt option two.

**Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Gala and Awards 2017**

The Committee was advised that the inaugural Legal-Island Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Gala and Awards were due to be held in the City Hall on Friday, 31st March, 2017. The Council had submitted an application for the ethnicity award, which would be presented to the outstanding organisations which were pioneering new standards of equality and diversity practices and driving the diversity agenda in Northern Ireland. This year the focus of the award competition would be on ethnicity, nationality and race. The three award categories were the private sector (SMEs and large employers); charity/not-for-profit; and the public sector.

The Council had been short-listed for the public sector award, following the successful submission of the application form.

The Committee agreed to the purchase of a table at the Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Gala and Awards 2017 and approved the attendance of:

- Councillor John Hussey, Chairperson of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
- Councillor Matt Garrett, Chairperson of People and Communities Committee (Community Services and Community Safety)
- Councillor Aileen Graham, Chairperson of City Growth Committee (Tourism, Culture and Arts)
- Councillor John Kyle, Chairperson of Shared City Partnership (Good Relations) or their nominees.
- A representative from each of the SDLP, Alliance Party and UUP; and
- Three Council Officers.

**Operational Issues**

**Volunteering Policy**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present for Members approval the attached Corporate Volunteer Policy (Appendix 1) which, alongside our previously agreed Volunteer Charter, strengthens our recognition of volunteers and volunteering within Council and sets out the strategic direction with regard to volunteering for the organisation.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Formally adopt the Corporate Volunteer Policy attached at Appendix 1.
- Note the approach and time-frame for the development of corporate procedures to support corporate implementation of the policy

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 The Council currently offers volunteering opportunities across a range of services, the majority of which are now located in the City and Neighbourhood Services Department. Involving volunteers brings many benefits to both the individual involved and to Council. The Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland describes volunteering as ‘the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment or individuals outside (or in addition to) one’s immediate family. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern or financial gain.’**

**3.2 Community Services currently has a Volunteering Framework that outlines its intentions towards its own directly recruited and managed volunteers. Given the involvement of volunteers by other services and sections, and as part of the process to embed the principles in the Volunteering Charter, a cross-departmental working group has drafted the Volunteering Policy which sets out Council’s commitment to volunteering for the organisation. The policy will be supported and implemented by the development of robust procedures which will be developed as part of a cross service task and finish group action plan. To ensure best practice, this work will be supported by Volunteer Now.**

**Volunteer Charter**

**3.3 Following the agreement by Members to the Volunteer Charter a cross-departmental task and finish group (lead by Community Services in partnership with Volunteer Now) was established to develop an implementation plan in order to embed the Charter principles in the practice of those services involving volunteers.**



- 3.4 In September 2015, the group undertook a scoping exercise to identify the extent of volunteer involvement across Council departments and the type of volunteer roles being provided. The recommendation from this exercise highlighted the need for Council to develop a Council policy on Volunteering which will give strategic direction and enable consistency in our approach to managing and recruiting volunteers.
- 3.5 It was agreed by the officer working group that the current Community Services Volunteering Procedures and Practice manual should form a base-line from which to develop the corporate policy. An initial review of this framework has been completed, and alongside a robust Health check by Volunteer Now, this has informed the development.

The draft policy covers:

- Vision and Values for volunteering within council
  - Volunteer Roles
  - Recruitment and Selection of volunteers
  - Management of Volunteers
  - Record-Keeping
  - Insurance
  - Expenses, and
  - Training
- 3.7 Following approval, an implementation plan will be rolled out by the task and finish group on the development of appropriate and robust corporate procedures.
- 3.8 It is intended that the staff guide on volunteering recently developed by Community Services will be used as a basis for the development of procedures as part of the policy implementation plan.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.9 Any financial resources associated with the policy development will be met within service budgets.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications**

- 3.10 There are no equality or Good Relations implications.”

**Belfast City Council Volunteer Policy 2016**

Volunteering underpins the life of the city of Belfast in youth work, sports clubs, faith based groups, events, older people's work, community and environmental groups and much more. There is a long tradition of Belfast City Council supporting volunteering and involving its citizens in the work of the Council as volunteers. Volunteering in Belfast is about people choosing to give time to others and their communities so making the city a better place to live. This policy recognises and supports volunteering and works to enhance the positive contribution it has in reducing inequality and strengthening bonds between people across the City.

In producing this policy Belfast City Council seeks to create an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering within the Council in order to improve the quality of volunteering.

While the Council plays a key role in building community capacity and providing civic leadership this policy is about volunteers involved directly by Belfast City Council. Further work is planned to enhance the Council's role as an enabler of volunteering in partnership with other organisations.

Volunteering is defined as 'the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice'.<sup>1</sup>

This policy development is an opportunity for Belfast City Council to reaffirm our vision for volunteer support, improve our practice and work in partnership with colleagues to extend this approach across the Council. It also outlines the principles on which the relationship between a volunteer and Belfast City Council is based.

**"1.0 Introduction**

**1.1 The volunteering relationship is based on trust and involves no obligations associated with employment. No payment, other than the reimbursement of agreed out-of-pocket expenses is made.**

**1.2 Belfast City Council involves volunteers in its work. Volunteers add value to the work of paid staff and play an**

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<sup>1</sup> 'Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future. The Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland', Department for Social Development, March 2012

important role in delivery of the Belfast Agenda. Volunteering should be a mutually beneficial experience with the organisation, volunteers and service users all benefiting.

- 1.3 Individuals will be volunteering in an organisation that is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. This commitment is reflected throughout the organisation's policies and practices.
- 1.4 This policy and associated procedures are designed to embed good volunteering practice and contribute to its consistent application across the Council.
- 1.5 By providing a positive, high quality volunteering experience, Belfast City Council will be better placed to attract, involve and retain volunteers.
- 1.6 Volunteers involved with Belfast City Council have a direct impact on the life of the city as well as supporting the delivery of the Belfast Agenda through:
  - Delivery of programmes for children and young people;
  - Delivery of older people's services;
  - Community based activity;
  - The arts;
  - Sport and Leisure activities;
  - Parks and the environment ;
  - Events

## 2.0 Vision and Values

- 2.1 As already noted, Volunteering is defined as 'the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice'.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.2 Belfast City Council values volunteer involvement in its work as an expression of active citizenship. We recognise the integral role volunteering plays in delivery of the Belfast Agenda through supporting Living Here, Working and Learning, City Development and to a lesser extent Business Development.

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<sup>2</sup> 'Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future. The Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland', Department for Social Development, March 2012

- 2.3 We support and encourage volunteering that builds connected, cohesive, competitive and confident communities.
- 2.4 Belfast City Council values the involvement of volunteers in our work as they help reflect the interests, needs and resources of the communities we serve. Volunteers bring a unique perspective; they are part of our team, with a distinctive but complementary role alongside paid staff. Involving volunteers enables us to enhance the benefits we can offer to citizens.
- 2.5 We value volunteering across the community and recognise the important contribution volunteers make to all aspects of community life as well as the many vital services which they deliver. As a funder of community and voluntary sector organisations we seek to encourage a local environment which supports volunteering to grow.
- 2.6 Volunteering is a mutually beneficial experience. Belfast City Council benefits from the skills, experience and enthusiasm of volunteers. In turn we believe that volunteers should gain personal benefits, such as improved health and wellbeing and skills development from their volunteering experience. We are committed to managing volunteers in a way that ensures the needs of both parties are met.
- 2.7 Belfast City Council strives to be a diverse and inclusive organisation operating within a diverse and inclusive city. As part of this we are committed to ensuring equality of access to high quality volunteer opportunities and equality of treatment for our volunteers in all our policies and practices.
- 3.0 Volunteer Roles
- 3.1 Belfast City Council offers a range of roles for volunteers that bring added value to our work. Volunteers are involved at appropriate levels in roles which complement, but never substitute, the work of paid Council staff.
- 3.2 The role or task of the volunteer is identified prior to the placement of an individual at a given location. All volunteers are provided with a written role description, outlining the purpose, tasks and main expectations of their role. This role is reviewed with their immediate supervisor at least once a year.
- 3.3 Volunteers will not be asked to fulfil the roles of paid staff in times of industrial action. They may continue with their

regular tasks but will not be asked to undertake additional duties.

**4.0 Recruitment and Selection of Volunteers**

**4.1** Belfast City Council is committed to making volunteering an inclusive process in which people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse skills can participate. We wish to see all sections of the community represented amongst our volunteers. Volunteering opportunities are widely promoted, and we will endeavour to make recruitment and selection materials available in formats accessible to any individual or group, upon request. We aim to review the make-up of our volunteers on a yearly basis to identify and target any under-represented groups.

**4.2** Belfast City Council implements a fair, effective and open system in the recruitment and selection of volunteers and treats all information collected in this process confidentially. The acceptance of a volunteer is made on merit, the sole selection criterion being the individual's suitability to carry out agreed tasks.

**4.3** All potential volunteers must complete the appropriate recruitment and selection process for the role they are applying for. Due to the range of roles available within Council this will vary but may include a registration form, a matching meeting, a reference check and a criminal records check in line with Access NI Guidelines.

**4.4** The recruitment and selection process is conducted by an appropriately briefed/trained staff member and aims to ensure both parties give and receive sufficient information to assess whether the volunteering opportunities available match the potential volunteer's interests, skills, qualities and needs.

**5.0 Management of Volunteers**

**5.1** All volunteers will be managed in line with Belfast City Council's volunteer management procedures. Belfast City Council aims to reflect the voluntary nature of its relationship with volunteers in all our policies and procedures for managing their involvement. This will involve the following:

- A written letter of welcome which outlines the expectations and responsibilities of both the volunteer and Belfast City Council.
- An induction which will begin prior to commencing their voluntary work and continue as required during

the settling in period. For one off and short term volunteer role opportunities induction should take place prior to the volunteer beginning the actual volunteer role.

- All relevant health & safety training will be provided before a volunteer begins their role.
- Appropriate written information on relevant legislation, organisational policies and codes of behaviour. Volunteers will need to provide written confirmation of receipt of this information.
- All volunteers are allocated a named member of staff as their supervisor with an alternative identified should the designated supervisor be unavailable. This person will provide day to day guidance on any issue related to the voluntary work.
- For longer term roles, there will be a settling in/taster period, the length of which will depend on the nature and hours of the voluntary work. Volunteers are given additional support during this period ending in a review meeting between the volunteer and his/her supervisor to ensure both parties are satisfied with the arrangements.
- Regular support to and supervision of the volunteer. The frequency, duration and format of this support and supervision are agreed between the volunteer and his/her supervisor at the end of the settling in/taster period.
- The volunteer's designated supervisor will deal with minor complaints or issues about or by volunteers or their work through the council's volunteer management support and supervision procedures in the first instance.
- However we recognise our duty to protect the well-being and interests of our volunteers, staff and service users and therefore operate a formal complaints procedure in the case of more serious complaints. In the case of particularly serious offences, as specified in the Code of Conduct, for example inappropriate physical restraint, this process may be bypassed and/or the subject of the complaint asked to leave. Where a criminal offence is suspected the matter will be handed over to the police.
- Belfast City Council will gather feedback and opinions from volunteers in appropriate ways and on a regular basis.
- Provision of adequate and appropriate facilities, equipment and resources to enable volunteers to fulfil their roles.

### Record Keeping

- 5.2 In order to effectively monitor the work carried out by volunteers and how they are managed, a personal file is maintained for all volunteers. This will include contact details and other relevant personal information, the initial application forms, details of the recruitment and selection process, agreements made, hours worked, records of supervision, training undertaken and complaints or grievances received or made. Some of this information and other relevant information may also be recorded in computerised records. All such information is treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998) and volunteers are entitled to inspect all such information pertaining to them. Some information in relation to volunteering may be subject to Freedom of Information.

### Insurance

- 5.3 Belfast City Council will ensure that appropriate insurance is in place to cover the activities of volunteers whilst carrying out their voluntary role as agreed with their volunteer supervisor and recorded in the written role description. Drivers should, however, check with their own insurance company to ensure they are adequately covered whilst using their cars in connection with their voluntary work
- 5.4 Belfast City Council reimburses volunteers' agreed out of pocket expenses following the Council's procedure for volunteer expenses. This will require claims to be submitted on a standard Expenses Claim Form and accompanied by proof of expenditure. Full details of rates and methods for claiming will be given at induction.
- 5.6 Belfast City Council staff required to recruit, select and manage volunteers will be provided with the necessary training.

### 6.0 Training

- 6.1 Belfast City Council is committed to encouraging volunteers to improve their personal and professional effectiveness in order to fulfil their potential.
- 6.2 In addition to induction training, volunteers and their supervisors will agree appropriate training that is relevant to their voluntary role. All requests will be subject to available funding.

**7.0 Monitoring & Review of the Policy**

- 7.1 This policy is regularly monitored and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it reflects the nature of volunteering within Belfast City Council and any legislative requirements.”**

The committee adopted the recommendations.

**IT Equipment Package**

The Committee considered the following report on a revised IT Equipment package for members and adopted the recommendations:

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

- 1.1 This report revisits the IT Equipment package currently on offer to Members in the context of the Council’s recent acquisition of Office 365.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree to the following:**

**Recommendation 1: To provide a HP Elite x2 (or equivalent) as the hybrid device of choice for members.**

**Recommendation 2: To standardise the models of smartphones supported. Members will be provided with the option of choosing an iPhone 7 (128 Gb) or a Samsung Galaxy S7 in April 2017.**

**Recommendation 3: Removal of a separate camera from the IT equipment package as it is included with the Smartphone provided.**

**Recommendation 4: Removal of an external hard drive from the IT Equipment package as Office 365 will provide 1Tb of personal storage when OneDrive for Business is implemented.**

**Recommendation 5: To provide a wireless printer for home use.**

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 15 April 2011, agreed to the standardisation of the IT equipment provided to Members. At the time, this delivered an**



annual efficiency of £13,000 and for a period resulted in a decrease in the resources required to support the varied IT estate.

**3.2 The current IT equipment package for members includes:**

- Desktop PC & Monitor or Laptop, Monitor, Docking station, Laptop case & lock;
- All-in-one printer, scanner and fax machine;
- 500GB External hard drive;
- Blackberry;
- Digital Camera (for those Members who do not require a Blackberry);
- Members were also supplied with iPads in October 2012

**3.3 However, since 2011 the range of IT equipment supplied to Members has become increasingly more diverse as we aim to ensure Members can access information flexibly and from any location.**

**3.4 To ensure the Council continues to remain at the forefront of advances in technology, Digital Services entered into a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. This provides access to the rich features of Office 365 which have the potential to deliver a more social, mobile, accessible and information-driven work environment.**

**3.5 Use of the BCC Office 365 account will provide access to all of the productivity features and benefits of Office 365. Some of the benefits include:**

- The ability to install Office on 5 devices and phones,
- Exchange Online including provision of a 50 GB mailbox per user, 500 times the current limit,
- Skype for Business to connect with other Skype for Business users via instant message (IM), voice calls, and video calls, and letting people know your availability with your online status.
- OneDrive for Business providing each user with 1 TB of personal cloud storage (4000 times the current limit for 'My Documents') that can be accessed from anywhere and syncs with a PC/Laptop for offline access.

**3.6 Digital Services is recommending the provision of HP Elite x2s (or equivalent) as a powerful lightweight portable device that can be used as either a notebook or a tablet. This provides the required level of mobility alongside business grade warranty**

and support and will replace the need for a separate laptop and iPad.

One of the biggest issues for Members in relation to the management of their iPads is the co-ordination of multiple accounts. This includes windows accounts, Apple ids, email credentials and logon to personal apps. Moving to the HP Elite x2 will simplify business access through a centralised Windows account.

**Recommendation 1:** To provide a HP Elite x2 (or equivalent) as the hybrid device of choice for members. Which will result in iPads no longer being required.

- 3.7 9 different makes and models of smartphones are currently supported. We are proposing to rationalise the number of supported smartphones and are recommending the provision of either an iPhone 7 (128 Gb) or a Samsung Galaxy S7 to cover smartphone requirements for the remainder of Members' term of office.

Smartphone replacement is bound by in year revenue budget constraints, this means that Members' smartphones will be replaced in April 2017 in line with revenue estimates.

**Recommendation 2:** To standardise the models of smartphones supported. Members will be provided with the option of choosing an iPhone 7 (128 Gb) or a Samsung Galaxy S7 in April 2017.

- 3.8 The quality of cameras that come with Smart Phones removes the requirement to provide a separate camera.

**Recommendation 3:** The provision of a separate camera should be removed from the IT equipment package, as it is included with the Smart phone provided.

- 3.9 The requirement for external storage devices has been removed as Office 365 comes with 1Tb of cloud-based personal storage.

**Recommendation 4:** An external hard drive should no longer be provided.

- 3.10 A wireless printer will be supplied for home use. Printing is also supported through the provision of printing facilities in all of the Party Rooms.

**Recommendation 5:** A wireless printer will be provided for home use

**\*Note:** A wireless printer has already been supplied to the majority of members.

**3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

The proposed option will save £565 per Member.

The replacement of smartphones is bound by in year revenue budget constraints; this means that Members' smartphones will be replaced in April 2017 in line with revenue estimates

**3.12 Next Steps**

The roll out of the new ICT Equipment Package, if agreed, will begin in March 2017. An installation schedule will be drawn up with officers from Democratic Services.

Several options for training will be available including:

- Familiarisation on handover of equipment
- Scheduled drop-in clinics
- 1-2-1 sessions

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None.”

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Board of 16th January, 2017.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 10th February, 2017.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Elected Member Development Working Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting Elected Members Development Working Group of 7th February, 2017.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 17th February, 2017**

**Request for the use of the Council Chamber**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the President of the Queens’s University Belfast Students’ Union (QUBSU) to hold a meeting of the Student Council in the Council Chamber, City Hall on Thursday, 6th April at 6.00pm.

The Students’ Union Council was the governing body of Queen’s Students’ Union. It met seven times per year and its membership consisted of 112 students (Councillors), elected from across the student population in Queen’s University. The Council debated and approved Students’ Union policies, approved changes to the Rules of the Union, received reports from Union committees and was responsible for the democratic accountability of elected student officers.

It was expected that approximately 55 Councillors would be in attendance at the meeting scheduled for 6th April. The meetings usually commenced at 6.00pm and lasted for a maximum of three hours. The duration of the meeting could be flexible to meet scheduling requirements. The meetings were open to Queen’s students to attend and speak. The media and members of the general public might only attend with the consent of the Students’ Union Council. The Students’ Union Marketing Team “live Tweet” the events.

If there were any members of Belfast City Council, or staff members of the Council who wished to attend and observe any of the meeting, the Students’ Union would gladly offer an invitation.

The Committee approved the request from the President of the Queen’s University Belfast Students’ Union to hold a meeting of the Students’ Council in the Council Chamber, City Hall on Thursday, 6th April at 6.00pm.

**Requests for the Use of the City Hall**

The Committee adopted the recommendations in relation to the requests for the use of the City Hall as set out below:

Appendix 1

<b>Organisation/ Body</b>	<b>Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Charge to be applied</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Belfast Central Mission	Looking Forward to the Future - Volunteer and Awards Event 14th September, 2017 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall	This event will recognise the contribution made by volunteers over the past year, highlighting past successes and acknowledging the difference made to peoples’ lives by the volunteers.  <i>This is an event organised by</i>	No charge to be applied. This is an event organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector group for non-profit and non-political purposes	Approve

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 17th February, 2017**

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Charge to be applied	Recommendation
			<i>recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non- profit and non- political purposes</i>		
British Institute of Cleaning Science (N.I. Branch)	Northern Ireland Cleaning Operative of the Year Awards  7th September, 2017  Approximately 50 attending	The use of the City Hall	This event seeks to acknowledge the vital role of cleaners across various industries in Northern Ireland.  The event will also aim to recognise those individuals who have been nominated within their respective industries for undertaking their duties to a high standard.	Non-commercial daytime rate - £115	Approve
Flax Trust	Flax Trust Inter- Community School Choirs Award (FISCA)  14th December, 2017  Approximately 550 attending	The use of the City Hall	This event will provide schools across North Belfast the opportunity to showcase their intercommunity choirs and to promote music and song as a neutral means of communication, and its ability to change perceptions and eliminate community tensions and religious prejudices. This event will culminate in the presentation of the award for best choir.  <i>This is an event organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector</i>	No charge to be applied. This is an event organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector group for non-profit and non-political purposes	Approve

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 17th February, 2017**

<b>Organisation/ Body</b>	<b>Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Charge to be applied</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
			<i>groups for non-profit and non-political purposes</i>		
Open Arts	Open Arts at 25! 2nd November, 2017 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall	<p>This event will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Open Arts working with people with and without disabilities, engaging together in high quality arts activities which promote creativity, increase artistic excellence, and nurture and encourage participants to achieve beyond expectations.</p> <p><i>This is an event designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years, etc.) by an organisation or body with close links to the city or province;</i></p> <p><i>This is an event organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes</i></p>	No charge to be applied. This is an event organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector group for non-profit and non-political purposes	Approve

Chairperson

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## People and Communities Committee

Monday, 6th February, 2017

### SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and Councillors Austin, Corr,  
Heading, Magennis and Newton.

Also attended: Councillor Boyle.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Sandford and Councillors Copeland, Corr Johnston, Lyons and McCusker.

#### **Deputation**

##### **Deputation from Higher Education Authorities**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. R. Feeney (Queen's University), Mr. D. Morrow (Ulster University), Mr. J. Woods (Belfast Metropolitan College) representing the Higher Education Authorities. Superintendent Jones was also in attendance representing Belfast City PSNI.

The Assistant Director provided the Committee with an update on the current work being undertaken by the Council. She reported that the Committee had considered a report on anti-social behaviour in a range of parks and open spaces across the City which had included:

- anti-social behaviour in the Holylands and around parks and open spaces across the city;
- the ongoing work in response to these issues; and
- the planned work to improve the response to these issues.

The Assistant Director advised that the report had been presented to the Committee following a Notice of Motion that had been submitted to the Council for consideration in respect of ongoing challenges within the Holylands area of Belfast, particularly at certain times of the year.

The officer reported that, during discussion, the Committee had recognised the importance of the Council working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to attempt to improve the response to these issues, hence why the meeting had been organised.

**Special People and Communities Committee,  
Monday, 6th February, 2017**

For Members information, the officer reported that a control strategy and operational plans were being developed by the PSNI and the Council for St Patrick's Day. The strategy and operational plans would focus on ensuring better co-ordination of multi-agency efforts around St. Patrick's Day 2017, not just in the Holylands area but also across the City.

The officer then proceeded to outline the proposed operation plans as follows:

- to deliver a comprehensive and integrated communications approach across agencies, including promoting positive St. Patrick's Day event/activities;
- to reduce antisocial behaviour and minimise the potential for public disorder by:
  - reducing the number of people attending the Holylands area;
  - reducing the amount of alcohol being brought into the area/consumed in the area;
  - encouraging positive behaviour and challenging negative behaviour; and
  - to deliver proportionate and proactive multi-agency enforcement.
- to provide an effective and timely clean-up to all parts of the city;
- to reduce anti-social behaviour by preventing large crowds gathering to consume alcohol and other substances in parks and open spaces; and
- to deliver successful St Patrick's Day public celebratory events (parade and concert) designed to attract a family audience.

Mr. Morrow thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present. He advised that the institutions recognised that there were particular challenges in some residential areas of South Belfast, specifically the Holylands area. He highlighted that this area was home to both long-term residents, students and a more transient population, including newcomers to Northern Ireland, who often resided in rented accommodation.

The representative stated that as responsible institutions, the universities and colleges were committed to promoting community responsibility to its students and encouraging positive community relations throughout the City and he proceeded to outline the following measures taken:

- the institutions communicate regularly and robustly with all of its students in respect of student behaviour, personal safety, alcohol consumption and potential consequences of anti-social behaviour, such as university discipline, damage to career aspirations and travel opportunities in the future;
- the institutions work with Belfast City Council and the PSNI throughout the year and engage in intensive inter-agency planning and co-operation with Belfast City Council and the PSNI in advance of the most challenging periods;
- each institution has a visible presence of staff in the areas during these periods;
- each institution has clear disciplinary procedures in place;

Mr. Morrow then proceeded to provide the Committee with clarification regarding enforcement. He advised that, given that the Holylands area was a private residential area, the universities and colleges had no statutory powers to enforce the law. He stated



**Special People and Communities Committee,  
Monday, 6th February, 2017**

that the institutions believed that clarity on the remit of the statutory agencies, clarity on the responsibility for enforcement of the alcohol and noise by-laws in particular, and a commitment to providing the resources to do so would be an important step in tackling the anti-social behaviour in the Holylands area. He added that, where current legislation was found to be not working or not being enforced, a commitment was needed from the statutory bodies that they would implement new legislation and enforce it.

Superintendent Jones concurred but added that introducing new legislation was not straight forward. She then proceeded to outline the work undertaken with the Council throughout the year and she specifically referred to the inter-agency planning and co-operation with all the statutory agencies in advance of the most challenging periods.

Mr. Feeney highlighted that there was an increasing number of non-students and post-primary students travelling to events in the university area and it was noted that busloads of young people had been seen arriving on a previous St. Patrick's Day. He reiterated that increased enforcement and fit for purpose legislation might be the turning point in managing some of the issues faced in the Holylands area and help ensure that all those present in the area were clear on their personal responsibilities, that anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated and that there would be serious consequences.

Mr. Morrow concluded by advising that the universities and colleges were committed to working with all the statutory partners to protect and enhance community relations throughout the year and most importantly to ensure the welfare of all students.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which the representatives answered a number of questions.

The Committee was reminded that, at a meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 8th November 2016, it had been agreed that the Director and Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and the Chairperson would undertake further engagement with the Higher Education Authorities and it was noted that a meeting would now be progressed and an update report would be submitted to a future meeting. In addition, it was requested that a breakdown of the following would be included in the report:

- the cost to the Council in terms of staffing / clean-up operation in the Holylands after St. Patrick's Day;
- the amount of money allocated to the Holylands from the South Belfast DPCSP; and
- the PSNI to provide details on the resources deployed during St. Patrick's Day.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending and they left the meeting.

Chairperson

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# People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 7th February, 2017

## MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers, Sandford and McCoubrey; and  
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Copeland, Corr, Heading,  
Jones, Lyons, Magennis, McCabe, Newton and Milne.

Also attended: Councillor Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McKee and Councillors McCusker, Nicholl and O'Neill.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 4th, 10th and 24th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor McCabe declared an interest in respect of agenda item 3 (b), viz., Sally Gardens Management Arrangements, in that he was a member of the Sally Gardens management committee.

### Committee/Strategic Issues

#### NIHE Homeless Strategy 2017 - 2022

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**In December 2016 the Council received an invitation from the Housing Executive to contribute to a consultation in relation to its Homelessness Strategy 2017–2022 ‘Ending Homelessness Together’. Full details of the consultation are available at:**

[http://www.nihe.gov.uk/draft\\_homelessness\\_strategy\\_2017\\_22.pdf](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/draft_homelessness_strategy_2017_22.pdf)

1.2 The aim of the consultation is to seek views on the strategic direction Housing Executive has set out in its Strategy document.

1.3 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Members of the Housing Executive's consultation exercise;
- seek approval of the proposed response from Council;
- subject to approval by this Committee, it is proposed that a final response is submitted to Housing Executive by 8 February 2017, with the proviso that this is subject to full Council approval at its meeting in March.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

Consider the draft consultation response to the Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017–2022, 'Ending Homelessness Together' and agree the response to Housing Executive.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Strategy sets out key objectives and the associated actions aimed at preventing homelessness where possible, and also to develop long term sustainable housing and support solutions for those households faced with homelessness. The Strategy supports a multi-agency approach to tackling homelessness and recognises the importance of local service delivery.

3.2 The Strategy document has four main areas to be considered, which are:

- Defining the problem of homelessness in Northern Ireland.
- The strategic context in relation to Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom and the European dimension, taking into consideration the Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 and other key policies and strategies.

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- An evaluation of the previous Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy 2012 – 2017.
  - Vision, aims and objectives.
- 3.3** The document's overarching vision is to 'end homelessness together', specifically aiming to prevent homelessness, ensure that households experiencing homelessness are supported to find suitable accommodation and support solutions as quickly as possible and to ensure a cross departmental and interagency approach to ending homelessness.
- 3.4** The Strategy sets out five key objectives with recommended short, medium and long term actions as follows:
- To prioritise homelessness prevention.
  - To secure sustainable accommodation and appropriate support solutions for homeless households.
  - To further understand and address the complexities of chronic homelessness across Northern Ireland.
  - To ensure the right mechanisms are in place to oversee and deliver the strategy.
  - To measure and monitor existing and emerging need to inform the ongoing development of appropriate services.
- 3.5** The draft consultation response welcomes the continued drive to prevent homelessness by addressing significant challenges which aim to provide sustainable housing solutions for everyone in need. Additionally, it reflects Council's desire to work as part of a multiagency team at every opportunity and to integrate our resources where practicable to ensure effective and collaborative delivery across Belfast. There are however key areas we would welcome greater detail on, to provide further clarity and inform how best we can become involved. These areas are fully detailed in the consultation response. The following points summarise the key areas Committee may wish to consider:
- Council recognises that the Housing Executive has adopted a Housing First Model approach to support homeless people with chronic needs. Council welcomes this approach, which offers permanent, affordable housing to vulnerable people in our communities as quickly as possible whilst providing intensive support appropriate to their needs in order to create sustainable tenancy and avoid recurring homelessness.

- The Strategy acknowledges that each client is unique and therefore has individual and, often complex needs to address homelessness. This is a crucial factor in effectively addressing homelessness and repeat homelessness. Council welcomes the Housing Executives proposal to tackle this difficult issue through the development of multidisciplinary teams. There is a specific need to support those homeless people with mental health issues and chronic drug and alcohol addictions to achieve better life outcomes. Council would welcome the provision of services which target these specific issues, through collaboration with medical health experts such as Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Public Health Agency, thus supporting the long term prevention of homelessness.
- The Council understands that the housing waiting list in Belfast is 10,000 with a high number of those households experiencing housing stress. It is recognised that a sustainable housing solution will differ from household to household. A key aspect of finding the right solution will be identifying a supply of housing that is sufficiently flexible to prevent households from becoming homeless and to ensure permanent, long term accommodation can be found for those that find themselves homeless. The Council is aware that the Housing Executive is in the process of reviewing its points allocation system and looks forward to commenting on this when the proposals are put out to public consultation. The strategy will need to specifically address these points.
- In early 2016, Members will recall that a multi-agency action plan was developed to address many of the city centre issues, which included addressing the problem of rough sleepers and homelessness. This multi-agency team, which includes Belfast PCSP has developed a short to medium term Street Management Strategy. This strategy was agreed in June 2016 and the delivery of programmes, directly contributing to addressing the issue of homelessness and in particular rough sleeping has now commenced which includes:
  - Supporting the Lord Mayor’s interagency approach to tackling the issue of homelessness and the associated problems. The Lord Mayor Homeless Stakeholder forum was held in

- November 2016 with a range of representation from across the voluntary, community and statutory sectors. Some actions included a health and homeless workshop, training and a homeless Christmas lunch. This group is due to convene again in February 2017.
- Working with key community and voluntary sector organisations to develop a media campaign, led by the community and voluntary sector groups, to raise awareness of issues relating to begging. The Begging for Change Working Group continues to meet and has planned further work around the issue of begging. The Group has agreed to commission a piece of research that will explore the reasons for and the impact of begging on the streets of Belfast. This research will support wider conversations in terms of effective intervention around the issues of begging ASB and alcohol / drug misuse.
  - Developing links with key community and voluntary sector organisations to raise awareness with rough sleepers and homeless clients about public health and safety issues.
  - Belfast PCSP continues to work with a range of community and voluntary sector organisations on the issues of rough sleeping and homelessness. Belfast PCSP is currently supporting work with the Welcome Organisation, Extern, PSNI and the Housing Executive that will enhance working relationships within the sector. Belfast PCSP is funding Extern and the Welcome Organisation to deliver rough sleeping multi-disciplinary support and outreach services. Further work is being explored with street pastors and the night-time volunteering group.
  - Engage with Belfast City Centre Management to help improve areas of the City Centre that have become hotspots for rough sleepers and homeless people.
- The Strategy states that it supports a multiagency approach to tackling homelessness that recognises the importance of local delivery. Council welcomes an unambiguous commitment to end homelessness and recognises the need for the development and delivery of a properly resourced, time bound, interdepartmental government strategy with clear priorities and outcomes. Whilst a fully coordinated approach is welcomed, there is no detail in relation to how partners will deliver on the actions set out in the Strategy.

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**Further clarification is needed regarding accountability, roles and responsibilities.**

- **The Strategy refers to actions which aim to achieve the Strategy objectives that have been set out. There is a need to have clear outcomes and indicators for these actions against which they can be monitored and evaluated. The Council would welcome regular updates through its Committee structure from Housing Executive senior officials in relation to progress.**
- **The actions identified in the Strategy should seek to clarify the full extent of work and programmes planned to tackle homelessness, in the short, medium and long term. The Council would welcome further opportunity to respond to the full Implementation Plan and Local Action Plans which are referred to in the Strategy.**
- **There is a need to recognise and further emphasise the important role Community Planning has in relation to the other Government departments and agencies who will need to develop and deliver targeted resources for agreed outcomes. It is recommended that multi-annual budgeting, with 3 to 5 year budgets which facilitate pipelines to programmes and increase effectiveness are considered.**
- **Following the implementation of Local Government Reform, Councils now have responsibility for the Planning function in their local areas. It will be essential that strong links continue to be forged with Council's Planning function, to ensure the most effective use of local land development is achieved to support the prevention of homelessness.**
- **It is recognised that hidden homelessness remains an issue and it is suggested that a baseline study is undertaken to fully determine the extent of homelessness in Northern Ireland. It is recommended that further commitment is encouraged through the Strategy, to capture, record, report and share data effectively in order to provide accurate, meaningful statistics which will ensure the problem of homelessness can be fully addressed.**
- **It is recognised that there is increased reliance on the private rented sector to support a reduction in homelessness. The Strategy should reflect the need for increased regulation of the private rented sector to**



protect tenants' rights and to reduce the rate of homelessness.

- Whilst there is a significant and concerning problem in relation to chronic homelessness and rough sleeping, evidence suggests that there are less than ten people in Belfast who are rough sleepers. Destitute asylum seekers have no entitlement to any accommodation however it is noted that this issue is not referred to in the Strategy. Given this, there is therefore a need to ensure that people who are here entirely legally, are not allowed to become homeless, as a direct result of Government policy.

**3.6 Housing Executive has developed a Housing Solutions and Support model that aims to provide person centred services, which are tailored to meet the needs of individual customers and supports them to achieve sustainable housing solutions. It is understood that the Housing Executive has been invited to attend a future meeting of the Council's People and Communities Committee to provide information on the model and its practical operation in local service delivery.**

**3.7 HR Implications**

**There are no HR implications to report.**

**3.8 Financial & Resource Implications**

**There are no financial or resource implications to report.**

**3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no equality or good relations implications to report."**

A Member raised a significant number of amendments which she asked the Committee to consider.

Following consideration the Committee agreed not to accept the amendments as it felt it had not been given adequate time to consider the detailed submissions within the context of the consultation response.

The Committee endorsed the draft response, available on the Council's website [here](#), to the Housing Executive in relation to its Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022 'Ending Homelessness Together'. It was noted that, in order to meet the deadline of 8th February, it would be submitted with the codicil that it would be subject to ratification by the Council.

**Children's and Young People's Strategy  
2017 - 2027 - consultation response**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the Department of Education's consultation on the Children and Young People's Strategy and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1** The Committee is asked to;

- Consider the draft response and approve its submission to the Department of Education, subject to any comments or amendment provided, with the proviso that the response is subject to full Council approval at its meeting in March 2017.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1** The Department of Education is currently consulting on the Children and Young People's Strategy; the consultation period commenced on Monday 19th December 2016 and will run until 5pm on Monday 27th February 2017.

**3.2** Members are also advised that officers from the Children and Young People Unit have had ongoing discussions with representatives from the Department of Education during the development stage of the draft strategy.

**Summary of draft strategy**

**3.3** The draft strategy is designed to improve the well-being of all children and young people living in Northern Ireland.

**3.4** The Programme for Government (PfG) identifies that a key desired outcome is 'giving our children and young people the best start in life' - the Strategy states that it is a key component to achieve this and that it sets out a direction of travel for how it wants the lives of children and young people to improve.

- 3.5 The Strategy seeks to build upon the many positive outcomes children experience whilst also focusing on areas of concern where outcomes are poorer or specific groups of children and young people face barriers to positive outcomes.
- 3.6 PfG has established the budget priorities which will reflect and drive the Executive's improvement agenda. Within this context funding for this Strategy will come from within departmental budget allocations.
- 3.7 The Strategy proposes the following eight outcomes:
- Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy
  - Children and young people enjoy play and leisure
  - Children and young people learn and achieve
  - Children and young people live in safety and stability
  - Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being
  - Children and young people make a positive contribution to society
  - Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights
  - Children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted
- 3.8 For each of the eight outcomes, the consultation response asks:
- Based on evidence, where is the greatest effort needed?
  - How do we know if we are achieving the outcome? (Proposed indicators)

**Draft Response**

- 3.9 A summary of the key issues are outlined below. As the closing date for responses is prior to the March Council meeting it is proposed that the response, subject to any comments or amendments from Members, be submitted with the caveat that it is still subject to ratification at the full Council meeting.
- 3.10 The Council welcomes the strategy and agrees with its proposed aim, key principles and the new structures that will oversee its delivery. We demonstrate how it fits closely with the Belfast Agenda and the work we are doing in the area and highlight the work of the Youth Forum. We suggest that further detail on how the strategy will be reviewed and

clarification around how Councils will fit into new structures would be useful.

Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy

- 3.11 We agree with all of the areas and indicators proposed under this outcome. We highlight the work and programmes we are delivering in these areas through our Play, Community and Leisure Centres and Leisure Development Unit.

Children and young people enjoy play and leisure

- 3.12 We agree with all of the areas and indicators proposed under this outcome. We highlight the work and programmes we are delivering in these areas and in particular initiatives to support children and young people with a disability and those living in poverty.

Children and young people learn and achieve

- 3.13 We agree with all of the areas and indicators proposed under this outcome and again highlight the work we do in this area. One of the areas highlighted is children and young people in custody, which the Council does not have a direct remit for but we indicate that we support the focus on this area.

Children and young people live in safety and stability

- 3.14 We agree with all of the areas and two of the indicators proposed under this outcome and again highlight the work we do in this area. There are two of the indicators that we neither agree nor disagree with, these are the victims of crime and child contact order indicators. The reasons for these are that in the case of the first we know that a high proportion of crimes where young people are the victim are not reported and in relation to the second we are not involved in this area of work and therefore unable to comment.

Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being

- 3.15 We agree with two of areas identified as requiring greatest effort but neither agree or disagree with the one around rural young people. The rationale for this is that Belfast is primarily an urban environment. There are two indicators under this outcome: Percentage of children living in absolute poverty before housing costs and Number of 16-24 year olds in education, employment or training. Whilst we agree with both indicators it is important to note that they both have

limitations and these are highlighted in the response with suggestions for strengthening them.

**Children and young people make a positive contribution to society**

- 3.16 We agree with the areas identified and highlight that it can be challenging for many organisations to ensure participation by children and young people, we highlight the Council's Youth Forum as an example of best practice. We neither agree nor disagree with the two proposed indicators, the rationale for this is we feel that further work is required on both to ensure they fully capture how the outcome is being achieved.

**Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights**

- 3.17 We agree with all of the areas proposed under this outcome. We agree with one of the indicators but disagree with two of the proposed indicators. We feel that just having heard of the UNCRC is not useful in terms of ensuring that the principles of the UNCRC is embedded in the policies and practices of organisations. The second indicator relates to the percentage of young people who feel they can give their views on issues that affect them, we suggest that this should be expanded to 'and acted on'.

**Children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted**

- 3.18 We agree with all of the areas and indicators proposed under this outcome and again highlight the work we do in this area. We reference the potential of Peace IV to assist in achieving this outcome.

3.19 **Financial & Resource Implications**

None associated with this report.

3.20 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with this report. Department of Education have completed an associated equality and human rights policy screening exercise."

The Committee endorsed the draft response, available on the Council's website [here](#), to the Department of Education's consultation on the Children and Young People's Strategy. It was noted that, in order to meet the deadline of 27th February, it would be submitted with the codicil that it would be subject to ratification by the Council.

**PHA Corporate Plan 2017 - 2021 –  
Consultation Response**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the draft response to the Public Health Agency’s (PHA) corporate plan for Members to consider and agree.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- **Consider and agree the draft response to the PHA corporate plan.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The PHA is seeking views on its draft Corporate Plan 2017 – 2021.**

**3.2 In summary its purpose, vision and values are to ‘protect and improve the health and social wellbeing of our population and reduce health inequalities through strong partnerships with individuals, communities and other key public, private and voluntary organisations’ by placing individuals and communities at the heart of it who we will listen to and involve openly and honestly whilst working in partnership to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities. Valuing and empowering staff to deliver evidence led and outcomes-focussed services.**

**3.3 We welcome the high level direction of travel and outcomes prioritised in it and its straightforward presentation in the draft corporate plan. Our full response provides the specific commentary we encourage for the best fit to our aspiration in the draft Belfast Agenda and in response to the latest Programme for Government consultation.**

**3.4 The consultation seeks feedback to the corporate plan vision generally and any gaps or opportunities for incorporation. It names 4 main priority outcomes for action in the corporate plan as:**

- **Outcome 1: All children and young people have the best start in life**

- Outcome 2: All older adults are enabled to live healthy and fulfilling lives
- Outcome 3: All individuals and communities are equipped and enabled to live long healthy lives
- Outcome 4: All health and wellbeing services should be safe and high quality

3.5 A summary of specific feedback follows in the key issues section of the report:

3.6 Key issues

We agree generally with the direction of travel in the corporate plan to promote health and social wellbeing where everyone is the heart of it and there is a focus on addressing health inequalities. We recommend going further to add a value in it to aspire to 'local people shaping and co-producing the services they require'. We encourage PHA that when listening to individuals and communities that this should also cover families/ or agreed advocates/ appointed professional representatives (e.g. educator, social worker, hub co-ordinator etc) for individuals to be effectively represented.

3.7 The main question in the consultation is whether or not you agree with the direction of travel, each outcome and any gaps or suggestions. Table 1 summarises the main feedback in our response to the suggested outcomes:

Table 1: Summary of main feedback on each Outcome

1. All children and young people have the best start in life?

We welcome that CYP getting the best start in life is a prioritised outcome and reflects our thinking in the Belfast Agenda. We recognise the items which promote the best start in life are generally the *universal rights of the child and worth referencing in this way. Furthermore we reinforce the need to recognise:*

- There is an evidenced need to prioritise CYP with *complex needs, experiencing 'multiple adversity' or those most at risk, particularly when assigning services or tailoring intervention or funding streams.*
- The evidence of the impact of child poverty *and* key transition stages in a child's life.
- A flexible approach to commissioning and programming to reflect the diverse 'family' experience to enable other 'informal kinship' arrangements e.g. grandparents or in cases where

there are child carers to be effectively addressed in service provision.

- *Building on our existing relationship with PHA to broaden collaboration with the Department of Education in the next PHA corporate.*

2. All older adults are enabled to live healthy and fulfilling lives? If not, what alternative do you suggest?

We welcome the prioritisation of this outcome and the focus on dementia and using technology based approaches to promote independent lives throughout older age. Furthermore we recommend the outcome references 'active' ageing i.e. 'All older adults are enabled to live healthy, *active* and fulfilling lives'.

- We support the activity listed like healthy ageing programmes, mental health interventions, immunisations and screenings to deliver the outcome. The Belfast Health ageing action plan and key priorities remain current and we recommend are a key focus for this investment.
- We seek an agreed definition of an older person is applied and support prioritising the needs of individuals with complex needs, dependencies and/ or multiple adversities and the right for an older person to be free from elder abuse.
- Prioritising and promoting timely interventions for adults to manage or maintain their health or implications of life choices at the optimum time using evidence to identify this and flexibly target when interventions are made.

3. All individuals and communities are equipped and enabled to live long healthy lives?

We positively reinforce the need to ensure adults with complex needs or differing abilities to be prioritised in this section. We are keen to highlight the priority need for drug and alcohol misuse to be prioritised in the actions underpinning this outcome to ensure there is co-ordinated information and materials and interdependence its impact has on behaviours or life choices and overall personal or community impact. Members recent concerns around the investment and delivery of mental health services and drug and alcohol addiction services in the Belfast trust areas particularly resulting in long waiting time for referrals or the adequacy of wraparound community support services in neighbourhoods that need it most is referenced and our



**ambition to work better in partnership to achieve joint service delivery in NHB settings**

- We welcome the opportunity to consolidate partnership work to plan and enable healthier communities. Achieving this collaboratively through the planning processes to improve the city's environment specifically our green spaces and using our services as a mechanism to disseminate messages on healthy lifestyles.
- We repeat the need for specific references as in outcome 1 and 2 for priorities to be identified within of those with disabilities, those at risk of harm or abuse, with complex needs, dependencies and/ or multiple adversities for access to universal and intervention services.
- The wider impact of poor health or inequalities is reflected and that the range of initiatives we already have in place like 'Belfast Works', Belfakes or community gardens and allotments as part of our Growing strategy may be scalable to fit the integrated whole life approach to person centred services to positively impact lives.
- Building resilience is key particularly as we reinforce the need to address the *interdependent nature of drugs and alcohol misuse particularly as it impacts, the individual, families, communities and the public safety.*

**3.8** Generally comments reinforce the need for proportional investment in services through integrated business planning to overcome Trust/ Council boundaries. We encourage ongoing collaboration connecting with our social and community engagement models e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal; Youth Forum or the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership etc and through our strategic partnership with GLL to improve the health outcomes for our citizens.

**3.9** In applying an outcomes based approach and person centred services these should identify those in greatest of need irrespective of age however we urge caution to ensure the needs of all the groupings under section 75 of which age is a single identity are addressed too.

**3.10** We have drafted an ambitious 'Belfast agenda' as our community plan which is based on our belief that we will invest to save through inclusive growth (via City Deal or other opportunities) which benefits everyone. Through the regeneration of our city centre, building jobs and employability and a thriving economy we aim to have a vibrant

and attractive city with safe and well connected neighbourhoods. We are lobbying to ensure the necessary powers are devolved for us to achieve this and successfully build local growth in our neighbourhoods.

**3.11 We have set an ambitious target to reduce the life expectancy gap by 50% in Belfast by 2035 from the most and least deprived wards which requires us to think and operate differently to achieve it. It means tackling the root causes of poverty and its impact on the individual, family or community. We recognise that sustainable regeneration of people and the place in which they live needs to be delivered successfully. We are currently considering how the complex interdependent nature of these issues that compound poverty are addressed through a future neighbourhood regeneration model and welcome an integrated approach with our partners to deliver this.**

**3.12 We seek to strengthen existing joint working arrangements (e.g. Belfast Strategic Partnership through the Making Life Better' strategy etc.) and with PHA to deliver these priorities with the trust and PHA and other key partners for co designed resource allocation which invests in preventive models for health inequalities, particularly for mental health and wellbeing.**

**3.13 Next steps**

**Members are asked to consider and agree the draft response to the PHA corporate plan.**

**3.14 Financial & Resource Implications**

**None associated with this report.**

**3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**None associated with this report."**

The Committee endorsed the draft response, available on the Council's website [here](#), to the Public Health Agency's (PHA) on the draft PHA Corporate Plan 2017 – 2021. It was noted that, in order to meet the deadline of 17th February, it would be submitted with the codicil that it would be subject to ratification by the Council.

### **Minutes of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group**

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group held on 3rd February, the following key issues had been considered:

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- update on the Economic Appraisal and Future Cremation Facilities;
- update on the new tender arrangements for the café at Roselawn Crematorium;
- update on the Cemetery opening hours; and
- Memorandum of Understanding with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; and
- discussions with neighbouring Councils regarding future Cremation and Cemetery Provision.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that at the meeting the Members had supported the recommendation for officers to engage neighbouring councils in a strategic conversation to better understand needs and demand in respect of cremations and burials across Northern Ireland.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the specific recommendation of the Working Group in respect of officers being granted authority to initiate discussions with neighbouring Councils regarding Belfast City Council's plans in relation to cemetery and cremations provision, to take into consideration the needs and plans of those neighbouring Councils.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Restricted Item**

**The information contained in the following report is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

**Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council  
Cemetery Subsidy**

The Committee was updated on discussions that had taken place with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) regarding the arrangements put in place to provide a subsidy for former Lisburn and Castlereagh residents in relation to burial charges.

The Assistant Director advised that LCCC had requested that Belfast City Council (BCC) review its existing process. She detailed that with the current arrangement BCC treated LCCC customers as non-residents when making burial arrangements and the bereavement administration team then forwarded correspondence to the relevant customer inviting them to contact LCCC regarding a subsidy to enable them to receive a refund.

The Committee was informed that LCCC had requested that this policy be amended to provide the LCCC residents with the subsidy at the start of the process, that is, when booking and paying and that the subsidy could then be recouped by BCC from LCCC.

The Committee:

- agreed that Belfast City Council (BCC) would enter into a legal agreement with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) to provide a subsidy scheme for residents wishing to use BCC's cemetery services which would be managed by BCC Bereavement Services; and

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- agreed that the fees outlined would be recharged to LCCC and noted that this agreement would be subject to an annual review to ensure the scheme was administered by the team without impacting the service and to ensure the customer received a high quality service.

**Sally Gardens - Management Arrangements**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the Management Arrangements at Sally Gardens. The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in April 2016 it agreed to operate a 3 month pilot scheme with Poleglass Community Association. The 3 month pilot scheme operated from 5th September 2016 and the association has been paid a monthly fee of £3666.67. The Committee further agreed at its meeting on 6th December 2016 to extend the pilot for a further 3 months. This report reviews the current arrangement and makes recommendation as to future arrangements.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- **Agree to formalise the agreement until September 2017 at which time it will be reviewed after a full year of operation**
- **Convey delegated authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to extend the arrangement on a year to year basis subject to a satisfactory review and agreement of Poleglass Community Association.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The Committee is reminded that, at its meetings in April and December 2016, it agreed to operate a pilot management arrangement at Sally Gardens. Essentially the Poleglass Community Association would carry out a range of duties as associated with opening and closing of the facility, reporting any damage; ensuring there was no unapproved use and facilitating casual bookings as necessary; and keeping the facility clean and tidy by removing litter from the pitch area.**

**3.2 As previously reported the Association has aspiration to extend the use of the facility beyond the core use of sports clubs. This would mean greater use during the day time and sustained use over the summer when soccer is in recess, such as using the facility to support summer schemes etc.**

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To date the Association has not been able to increase day time use but it remains committed to the concept and is currently working on a summer scheme programme which will incorporate use of the facility.

- 3.3 A brief summary of the figures from September and October are given below:**

	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>
<b>Bookings</b>	77	72	91	85	51	118
<b>Full Pitch</b>	50	40	46	44	30	65
<b>Half Pitch</b>	22	32	45	41	21	53
<b>Adult</b>	28	22	29	25	19	24
<b>Concession</b>	41	50	62	60	32	94
<b>Income £</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>2,924</b>	<b>3,766</b>	<b>3830</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>4459</b>

- 3.4 Members will note that the usage levels are positive and during January we have seen an increase in usage and income generation, indications for February and into March suggest that the levels of use will be sustained. Figures for December were low but this can be explained by seasonal variation given the run up to the Christmas holiday period.**
- 3.5 In relation to the upkeep of the facility, it is kept clean and tidy in accordance with the agreement.**
- 3.6 Members are asked to note that although the figures show that the income generated exceeds the monthly payment to the Association, the Council is responsible for the routine maintenance of the pitch such as the weekly brushing regime.**
- 3.7 The Committee is reminded that a changing pavilion is currently under construction on the site. This has been funded jointly by the Council and the Department for Communities and is scheduled to be completed August 2017. This will enable matches to be played on the facility and will make it more attractive to users, existing and potential.**
- 3.8 Members are also asked to note that proposed reduction in the fee for pitch use may result in the facility operating at a deficit each month with the management fee potentially exceeding the ability to generate sufficient use to compensate for the reduced income.**

**3.9 Financial & Resource Implications**

**The monthly cost of supporting pitch management will be £3,667 per month which is allocated within existing budgets.**

**3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no equality or good relation implications at this time.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Balmoral Bowling Club**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the lease of Balmoral Bowling Club.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Reynolds addressed the Committee. He circulated pictures of the bowling greens at the facility and proceeded to outline a proposal on behalf of the club, whereby the Council would provide funding of £5,000 per annum for a three year period to the Bowling Club to assist them in undertaking the maintenance of the bowling greens.

The Assistant Director confirmed that she was unaware of this proposal and she undertook to investigate the details further with the Council's Legal Services Section and to update the Committee in due course.

The Committee:

- noted the existing lease arrangements and agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable officers to liaise with the Council's Legal Services Section to explore options for a separate agreement to provide £5,000 per annum for a period of 3 years to contribute to the refurbishment of the Bowling Green. Thereafter responsibility for the maintenance would transfer to the Bowling Club for the term of the lease; and
- agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

**River Terrace Community Garden**

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting held on 13th September 2016, it had agreed to surrender the River Terrace Site back to the Department for Communities as it was no longer deemed to be a viable site due to contamination issues and undulating ground conditions. This agreement had been subject to the South Belfast Area Working Group (SBAWG) agreeing how the £20,000 funding for the proposed project would be spent.

The officer advised that at a recent meeting of the SBAWG it had been agreed that a Community Garden should proceed in the area adjacent to the original River

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Terrace Department for Communities site. She reported that door to door house surveys had been undertaken and these had indicated that 86% of householders had been interested in participating in a community garden, with the proposed location being their preferred choice.

The Committee noted that, should they give approval to proceed, officers from the Parks Section would proceed to allocate £20,000 of capital funds to purchase the necessary equipment and materials in order to assist the local community in establishing a Community Garden.

The Committee:

- approved the recommendations of the South Belfast Area Working Group to proceed with a Community Garden in the area adjacent to the original River Terrace Department for Communities site; and
- agreed to allocate the remaining £20,000 Capital Fund to develop the site.

#### **Football Pitch Maintenance at Brantwood**

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that Brantwood Football Club was a Football Club based in Jellicoe Avenue, North Belfast. She reported that at the former Parks and Leisure Committee, held on 11th March 2011, approval had been given for the Council to enter into a legal agreement with the Club to carry out routine football pitch maintenance on their pitch subject to a full recovery of the cost. She advised that the agreement had been put in place for five years and this had now expired and the club was seeking to extend the existing arrangement.

The officer outlined the details of the previous agreement and confirmed that this had worked successfully. She reported that a legal opinion had previously been obtained regarding the additional works which had advised that the works could proceed under Article 10 of the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

The Committee approved an extension to the legal agreement with Brantwood Football and Recreation Club for the Council to carry out routine football pitch maintenance on the pitch at the agreed rates at no cost to the Council.

### **Environment**

#### **Recycling - Update on Real Nappy Scheme**

(Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management, attended in connection with this item).

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 11th August 2015, it had agreed that a 'Real Nappy Scheme' would be developed within Belfast.

The Head of Waste Management summarised the report which outlined the results from the scheme, which had commenced in November 2015. He advised that, in Belfast, uptake of the scheme had been very positive with 94 applications. Of the 94 applicants received, four had been from outside the Council boundary, and had therefore

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been excluded. Of the remainder, there had been 53 eligible applications of which 22 households converted to reusable nappies on a more permanent basis. This represented a 42% conversion rate which had exceeded the expectations of the Service. Out of the initial £3,000, a total of £2,462 had been allocated. He reported that the scheme would continue until either all the funding had been used up or to the financial year-end.

The committee agreed:

- to approve regularising the current scheme within the Service's existing budget; and
- to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs making a case for them to provide additional funding to support the implementation and promotion of this, or a similar, scheme across Northern Ireland.

### **Boundary Change at Grow Waterworks**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 8th November 2016, it had agreed to renew the licence to use agreement with Grow to provide a community garden at the Waterworks Park.

The officer reported that in subsequent discussions with Grow it had requested an alteration to the existing boundary. She drew the Members' attention to the boundary map and explained that they wished to include a small grassed area and she highlighted that this proposal did not include the woodland area adjacent to the additional area.

The Members noted that Grow had also requested permission to create an earth oven on the site and advised that officers had no objection to this request.

The Committee noted the report and agreed to extend the boundary on condition that any proposed use would be agreed in advance with the Park Manager, and that it would not extend into the adjacent Woodland Area.

### **Operational Issues**

#### **Landlord Registration Scheme**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 This report is to update Members on the Landlord Registration scheme as requested at the November Committee meeting.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- **Note the contents of this report.**



**3.0 Key Issues**

- 3.1** The Landlord Registration (Northern Ireland) 2012 became operational on 25th February 2014. The regulations has created a register of all private landlords that can be accessed by councils, tenants and members of the public to check if a landlord has registered under the scheme. It has also given the Department for Communities (DFC) and local councils the means to communicate and work with private landlords, allow them to ensure that landlords comply with the law and where necessary take enforcement action.
- 3.2** Landlords register with the DFC and pay one fee regardless of the number of properties they own. The fee is £70 on-line and £80 for paper/non-electronic applications. A registration lasts for 3 years.
- 3.3** The DFC appointed a Landlord registrar who is in charge of the information and may disclose it, on request, to:
- a district council to enable or assist it to carry out its legal duties;
  - the Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland to help it to carry out its legal duties for rating purposes;
  - the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, for the purposes of administering housing benefit, and the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- 3.4** The offence of failure of a landlord to register carries a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500. If a landlord is found guilty of providing false information it carries a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500. If a landlord fails to provide evidence of registration it carries a maximum fine on conviction of £500.
- 3.5** Payment of a fixed penalty will discharge any liability for prosecution. These penalties must be determined by the Council and cannot exceed £500 for the offence of non-registration and providing false information, and £100 for the offence of failing to provide evidence of registration.
- 3.6** The register can be accessed on-line via <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/landlord-search>
- 3.7** It is estimated that there are currently 106,126 properties in the Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland with over a quarter of them 28,676 in Belfast. The numbers of landlords registered in Northern Ireland is currently 50,884.

- 3.8 30,011 landlords registered in relation to 65,532 properties in the first year (2014/15) of the scheme. A further 16,354 registered in relation to a further 16,354 properties in the second year (2015/16). So far this year 4,526 landlords have registered in relation to 8,319 properties.
- 3.9 From April 2015 until present the City Council has completed over 1907 Landlord Registration checks and sent 557 warning letters to and served 18 fixed penalties on non-compliant landlords.
- 3.10 A press article in September 2016 highlighted that 738 rented properties in the Holylands did not have a landlord registered with the scheme. Since then we have undertaken an extensive exercise in the area including a mailshot to all known landlords, door to door visits and various land web searches. This has identified that 550 of the 732 identified in the press article needed further investigation. Interventions by the Council have reduced this number to 336 cases and these are being investigated at present on a case by case basis.
- 3.11 Councils receive no income from registration fees paid to the Department. We are allowed to keep the income for fixed penalties served. All enforcement activity in this area is therefore carried out within existing budgets.
- 3.12 All registration income is held by the DFC and they use the funding to cover the costs of the following:
- Maintenance of landlord registration system capable of both electronic and non-electronic registration;
  - Advice and guidance on how to register and how the registration system works provided by NI Direct;
  - Preparation and issue of quarterly newsletter to all registered landlords/agents;
  - Salary costs for Landlord and Deputy Landlord Registrar;
  - System enhancement payments for BT;
  - Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Level 2 Award for Private Landlords – part-funding over a three year period;
  - Housing Rights – Landlord Helpline – funding for one year pilot project to provide advice and guidance to registered Landlords on the private rented sector.
- 3.13 The Department is currently exploring the potential for councils to receive funding from the fee to enable them to promote the scheme. These conversations are at an early stage and updates will be brought to Members as these

progress. The DFC recently launched a consultation on the review of the private rented sector and one aspect of this is proposed changes to the landlord registration scheme. Officers are currently preparing a response for future consideration by this committee. This consultation can be accessed via the following link. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/private-rented-sector-northern-ireland-proposals-change>

**3.14 Financial & Resource Implications**

The Council receive no landlord registration income. All additional and investigative enforcement work in relation to the scheme is carried out within current budgets.

**3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the update report.

**Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To provide further update report to the Committee on the progress with the public access defibrillator pilot programme.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- note the update on the pilot programme;
- approve a second phase of the public access defibrillator programme for nine further Council sites – Botanic Park; City of Belfast Playing Fields; Grove Playing Fields; Cherryvale Playing Fields; Blanchflower Stadium; Wedderburn Playing Fields; Woodvale Playing Fields, Henry Jones Playing Fields and Woodlands Playing Fields. This is subject to the identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply and confirmation with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there are no other public access defibrillators within a short distance;

- approve the proposed installation of a publicly donated public access defibrillator at the Lock Keepers Cottage site;
- approve the registration of the existing Council workplace defibrillators on the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service database.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1** In considering a Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Garrett regarding defibrillators, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 20 November 2015 agreed to extend the Council's deployment of defibrillators to a number of additional Council premises and also, on a trial basis, installing public access defibrillators in a number of Council parks / playing fields. This report provides an update on this pilot programme.

**3.2** At the same Committee meeting (item 5b – non recurring expenditure), Members also agreed to the allocation of £15,000 funding for defibrillators at Council sites during 2016/17.

**3.3 Update on pilot public access defibrillator programme**

In accordance with the Committee's instructions, public access defibrillators were installed in the following parks in May 2016:

- Victoria Park
- Waterworks Park
- Fullerton Park
- Tullycarnet Park
- Boucher Road Playing Fields
- Falls Park

**3.4** In addition, two mobile defibrillators were also deployed in May 2016. One is carried by a Safer Neighbourhood Officer Team and the other by a Parks Warden Team.

The following is the status of these units as at 12 January 2017:

- Deployment - there are no records of any of these defibrillators having actually been used in the first eight months of the pilot programme.
- Vandalism – there has been no vandalism reported to the defibrillators installed in Victoria Park, Tullycarnet

Park, Waterworks Park or Boucher Road Playing Fields. The Fullerton Park defibrillator had been tampered with twice in the initial few months but remains in place with no further reports. After initial vandalism to the Falls Park defibrillator cabinet, this was relocated to the reception area of the pavilion building and no further instances have been recorded.

- Management - there are ongoing arrangements in place for the monitoring of the equipment and refresher training for a number of local staff.

**3.6 Potential second phase of public access defibrillator provision**

It is proposed that a second phase of public access defibrillators be installed using the funds allocated in November 2015. During this pilot programme, the focus for public access defibrillators on Council sites has been on recreational facilities and those sites with significant public access or high footfall.

**3.7 Continuing with this focus on recreational facilities and recognising the specific reference to sports facilities within the Community Resuscitation Strategy, the next phase of provision would be proposed for:**

- Botanic Park
- City of Belfast Playing Fields
- Grove Playing Fields
- Cherryvale Playing Fields
- Blanchflower Stadium
- Wedderburn Playing Fields
- Woodvale Playing Fields
- Henry Jones Playing Fields
- Woodlands Playing Fields

**3.8 The provision of defibrillators at these sites would be subject to the identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply and confirmation with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there are no other public access defibrillators within a short distance.**

**3.9 For this second phase of the pilot programme, we have excluded those premises not directly managed by Belfast City Council and those which have ready access to a Council supported defibrillator e.g.**

**Ormeau Park Playing Fields – defibrillator available within the Ozone Centre**

**Ballysillan Playing Fields – defibrillator available within Ballysillan Leisure Centre**

**Victoria Park Playing Fields – defibrillator available at Victoria Park Bowling Pavilion**

**Loughside Playing Fields – defibrillator available at Loughside Recreation Centre**

**3.10 Request for installation of a publicly donated defibrillator at the Lock Keepers Cottage site**

A request has been received from a member of the public wishing to donate a public access defibrillator to the Lock Keepers Cottage site. The donations for this proposed defibrillator (and potentially a further device on the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council section of the Lagan Tow Path) have been raised in the memory of Matthew Thompson who sadly died on the 11 June 2016 when out jogging on the tow path. This potential donation has been welcomed in principle by both the Parks Service and the Lagan Valley Regional Park site management and with the Committee's approval they will work with the family to have this defibrillator installed and maintained in the most appropriate location.

**3.11 Registration of Council workplace defibrillators on the NIAS database**

As part of the Northern Ireland Community Resuscitation Strategy, NIAS are compiling a database of defibrillators across Northern Ireland. In the event of a relevant 999 call, it is anticipated that this database would enable the Control staff to be able to direct the caller to any nearby defibrillator so that they could commence defibrillation at the earliest opportunity. At this time, the Council's six public access defibrillators have all been registered with the NIAS database. We would now propose that in support of the Community Resuscitation Strategy, the Council register all of its workplace defibrillators on the database and in doing so, make them available for public use.

**3.12 It is accepted that there will be some work involved for the Corporate Health and Safety Unit and the relevant premises managers / defibrillator co-ordinator in making these devices available for public use including clarifying the opening hours and accessibility of the defibrillator location; what would happen in the event of a member of the public requesting the defibrillator for off-site use; how the defibrillator would be returned / retrieved etc.**

**3.13 Alignment of Council approach to defibrillator provision with the Northern Ireland Community Resuscitation Strategy**

At a special meeting of the Committee in September, NIAS briefed the Members on the objectives of the Northern Ireland Community Resuscitation Strategy (NICRS).

**3.14 The Council's current defibrillator provision supports the following NICRS objectives**

- improve the availability of, an access to, the automated external defibrillators that are in place across Northern Ireland;
- encourage members of the public to intervene in the event of an out of hospital cardiac arrest;
- raise public awareness of the importance of early recognition of an out of hospital cardiac arrest and the importance of early intervention;

**3.15 Restart a Heart Day**

In conjunction with the European Union Restart a Heart Day campaign on Tuesday 18 October 2016, the Corporate Health and Safety Unit hosted two sessions for interested staff to learn CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) skills. Both sessions were well attended and the training initiative well received.

**3.16 Further steps**

It is important to note that substantive improvements in successfully responding to out of hospital cardiac arrest in the City are heavily dependent on the implementation of the NI Community Resuscitation Strategy. The Committee may therefore, in future, wish to consider, how it receives updates on this Strategy and links any further work, including any additional deployment with this Strategy.

**3.17 Financial & Resource Implications**

The estimated cost of purchasing, installing and maintaining the second phase of eight externally located public access defibrillators is £15,000. It should be noted that there is no recurrent provision for this funding.

**3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

The Council's Good Relations Unit have advised that proposals for extending the deployment of defibrillators will have a positive effect on the Health and Wellbeing of people

**who work, live and visit Belfast and that this is a positive equality action.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Request to Consider an Alleygate at Castle Arcade**

The Committee considered a report which sought authority for the commencement of formal statutory and community pre-consultation in respect of alleygates proposed at Castle Arcade without prejudice to a final decision by the Council on whether to formally proceed.

Several Members stated that they felt the erection of alleygates at this location would not be a solution to the problem. Whilst they recognised the ongoing concerns of the Council, PSNI and businesses around increasing levels of criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime they expressed concern at the displacement of homeless people who used this location.

The Assistant Director advised that officers had engaged with the main service providers in the City (Welcome Centre, Council for the Homeless and St. Vincent de Paul). She reported that they fully supported the wishes of the Members to ensure appropriate support was in place for those individual with vulnerabilities and therefore should a decision be taken in the future by the Council to install alleygates in this area, signs would be erected in the vicinity providing information on support services for vulnerable people and how to access accommodation.

Detailed discussion ensued during which several Members highlighted the impact that the anti-social behaviour in this location was having on local businesses, stating that this had been exacerbated by the closure of the British Homes Store.

The Committee agreed:

- that officers would commence wider consultation in respect of the Castle Arcade and the surrounding area which would not focus entirely on the erection of an alleygate at Castle Arcade;
- that all the alternative options available to regenerate the area would be considered and discussed with the stakeholders in the area; and
- that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting but within a period of three months.

### **Active Belfast Board - Governance Arrangements**

The Committee was reminded that, at its last meeting, clarity had been sought around the Active Belfast Limited governance and reporting arrangements.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to the Governance and Accountability framework that had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting held on 23rd October 2014.



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The Committee noted the governance and reporting arrangements for Active Belfast Limited.

**Vehicle Legislation**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Committee that, as previously requested, he had written to the relevant Department Ministers to outline the action being taken by the Council to try and combat this issue on its lands and to offer the support of officers to work with the Departments' and other relevant agencies to consider any potential legislative changes necessary.

The officer reported that further research had been carried out to establish how off road vehicles were legislated for in other jurisdictions and this had highlighted the range of legislation that existed to deal with the misuse of motorised vehicles as follows:

- all motorised vehicles must be registered in the Republic of Ireland following new legislation implemented earlier in the year;
- the situation in the UK was less straightforward in that road activity was regulated by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and there was only a voluntary registration scheme for off road motorised vehicles. The Minister of Infrastructure had outlined during an Assembly debate on 3rd October 2016 that this needed to be extended to this jurisdiction as it was an excepted matter; and
- in 2015 the Scottish Parliament held a similar debate and they too had to consider adopting the DVLA voluntary off road registration scheme.

The Director advised that he had written to the Minister for Infrastructure, outlining the Council's desire to explore a registration scheme, seeking support to align resources and to provide a practical and purposeful approach over the Christmas period and the longer term as the review of the legal frameworks progressed.

The Director detailed that in response the Minister had provided the following information:

- the remit of the Department of Infrastructure only extended to the use of motorised vehicles on public roads. Motorised vehicles used on public roads must comply with all legal requirements including type approval and must meet necessary safety standards as well as having appropriate insurance;
- they must also be licensed by the DVLA;
- in the case of private roads or land, responsibility lies with the user of the vehicle in question and the land owner;
- at present registration requirements were only attached to motorised vehicles driven on public roads;
- off-road vehicles such as quad bikes and scramblers cannot be driven on public roads and are exempt from vehicle requirements;
- in Britain there had been several attempts to introduce primary legislation to require all off-road vehicles to be registered, however, these had not come to fruition; and
- as vehicle registration was an excepted matter, the Department had no powers to introduce similar statutory registration requirements in Northern Ireland.

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The Director stated that the Minister had expressed his concern about off-road vehicles being used on private land and had welcomed the opportunity to meet to discuss the issue.

The Committee noted the progress in respect of this issue and agreed that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and the Chairperson of the Committee would seek a meeting with officials from the Department for Communities in order to try and progress this matter and agreed to keep the Committee informed accordingly.

**Chartered Institute of Waste Management Conference and Exhibition**

The Committee agreed that an invitation to attend a Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) organised exhibition and conference on 29th March, at the Eikon Exhibition Centre, Balmoral Park, would be extended to all the Members of the People and Communities Committee.

**Street Naming**

The Committee approved the naming of Ishbel Gardens, off Lady Ishbel Avenue, BT8.

**Waste Partnerships - Eco-Schools and  
The Conservation Volunteers**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report is to provide Members with an update on the partnership-working with (i) Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) to deliver several programmes, and (ii) The Conservation Volunteers (TCV).**
- 1.2 Specifically, this report is seeking approval to continue funding the Eco-Schools Programme and to endorse the approach used for the clean-up operations carried out by TCV in Poleglass. The funding for KNIB will be used to ensure that more schools achieve a Green Flag award, thereby ensuring that pupils develop and maintain an excellent knowledge of environmental and recycling considerations which affect schools, Belfast and the planet.**
- 1.3 There are 185 schools in Belfast and, in terms of the Green Flag award they have achieved the following: 38 x Green Flag (excl 23 which have lapsed), 39 x Silver Flag, 22 x Bronze Flag and 63 x no award.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- Approve the continued funding of the KNIB Eco-School programme and '*The Wheelie Big Challenge*' at a cost of £18,158 in 2017/18;
- Endorse the Service Level Agreement approach being used by Waste Management to accept waste collected by TCV during daily clean-up operations around Poleglass, inherited under local government reform.

**3.0 Main report & Key Issues**

**Eco-Schools**

- 3.1 Eco-Schools is an international programme which seeks to harmonise environmental education and protection across the globe. Since 2012/13, the Service has been using this programme to broadcast its recycling message to all schools in Belfast. Successes to date include having every school now registered as an Eco-School participant, and a continual flow of schools moving through the award system with the ultimate goal of attaining the highest award – the Green Flag.**
- 3.2 Using Eco-Schools allows Waste Management to ensure that the recycling message is delivered consistently to schools, while at the same time the Service's Education Officers can focus on engaging with other community groups and ensuring that there is effective and consistent communication with schools, householders, communities and businesses across the city.**
- 3.3 To date, KNIB and Waste Management have agreed a work programme to ensure that the quality of communication is maintained and progress reports are provided on a regular basis.**
- 3.4 Additionally, working with KNIB, the Service has designed an annual schools competition called '*The Wheelie Big Challenge*' which is a team competition focusing on practical activities to reduce waste and increase recycling in the school. It is aimed to be more inclusive than the usual schools' environmental competitions as entries are not judged simply on how well they deliver a presentation, but on the quality of the recycling actions carried out. Last year, over 35 schools took part.**

- 3.5 In recent years, in June the '*Wheelie Big Challenge*' is held in the City Hall as part of a celebratory event for schools who have achieved their Green Flag.

#### The Conservation Volunteers

- 3.6 The former Department of Social Development (DSD) now Department for Communities have a contract in place with TCV, to carry out environmental improvement initiatives and ensure fly-tipped waste is collected and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner from DSD lands in the Poleglass area.
- 3.7 As part of the Local Government Reform (LGR) process, in order to ensure service continuity and avoid TCV from being compromised arising from LGR<sup>1</sup>, the Council entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to receive these materials<sup>2</sup>. This agreement allows TCV to use Blackstaff Household Recycling Centre to deposit waste and recyclable materials collected from the Poleglass area. In line with their previous agreement with Lisburn City Council, and the Council's current charges applied to charities for the collection/disposal of waste, a discounted gate fee is charged for the use of this site.
- 3.8 The existing DSD-contract with the TCV ends in May next year and, in order to provide continuity of disposal arrangements, the Service is now proposing to enter into a new SLA from 31 Mar 2017 for the 2017/18 year, with an option of a one year extension. A draft copy of the SLA is appended to this report. To date, the SLA has worked well and played a positive role in removing an estimated 560 tonnes of fly-tipped material from this area, contributing to a cleaner, greener city. The SLA also supports a full-time team of five Community Wardens within TCV.
- 3.9 The value of the SLA with TCV is approximately £14,500 and as such the Service is seeking endorsement of its approach in continuing to develop this partnership with the Conservation Volunteers.
- 3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The cost of £18,158 to run the Eco-Schools Programme and '*The Wheelie Big Challenge*' can be met from within the Service's agreed 2017/18 budget.

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<sup>1</sup> Lisburn City Council informed TCV that they would no longer accept fly-tipped material collected from Poleglass at their Recycling Centre at Cutts after 1 April 2015.

<sup>2</sup> It should also be noted that, at that time, it was envisaged that the DSD lands would transfer to the Council in April 2016.

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**3.11 The SLA with TCV generates approximately £14,500 income  
for the Council.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

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## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 8th February, 2017

### MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Haire, McGimpsey and Spence; and  
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian, Dudgeon,  
Hargey, Howard, Johnston, Magee,  
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;  
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;  
Mr. G. Copeland, City Events Manager; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Alderman L. Patterson and Councillors McAteer and McDonough-Brown.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 11th and 24th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Restricted Items

The information contained in the following 3 reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

### Capital of Culture

The Chief Executive advised the Committee of the possibility of the Council submitting a joint bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to become the UK host for the 2023 European Capital of Culture.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Howard,

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Wednesday, 8th February, 2017**

That the Committee agrees to refer the issue to the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 17th February, to allow party briefings to be offered on the issue in the interim.

On a vote by show of hands twelve Members voted for the proposal and one against and it was declared carried.

The Committee also agreed that a further report would be submitted to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 8th March.

**Blackstaff Square**

(Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place, attended in connection with this item)

The Director of City Centre Development outlined to the Members the plans for the Blackstaff Square area. She highlighted that no additional money was required as the work had been accounted for in the recent budget process.

In response to a Member's point regarding the need for a joined up approach between the developer and the utility companies, in order to avoid newly developed areas being dug up soon after their completion, the Director confirmed that this would be included in the terms of the contract.

The Director, in response to a further Member's question, advised the Committee that, with the planned pedestrianisation of Amelia Street, the Black Taxi pick-up point would remain where it was until a new location had been identified by the developers of the Transport Hub.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the proposed approach to the Phase 1 implementation of the Linen Quarter Vision and Guidance;
2. noted that developer contributions had been obtained for public realm work in the Linen Quarter area and noted the importance in making progress in utilisation of these contributions;
3. agreed to allocate £100,000 from the City Centre Development Team budget; and
4. agreed that a request to tender the contract would be included in the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee report on contracts.

**City Investment Fund**

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Members with an overview of the intention to use the City Centre Investment Fund to further invest in the city centre in order to address market failure in the current financial climate. She explained to the Committee that the Council would receive an agreed financial return from any investment in addition to the amount which the Council had loaned.



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The Committee noted the report, pending approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, for the use of the City Centre Investment Fund to support the new build developments as outlined.

**Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

**Regeneration Best Practice Visit**

The Director of City Centre Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 7th December, 2016, it had agreed to undertake a regeneration best practice study visit in April 2016. The Members noted that the aim of the visit was to develop insight from relevant regeneration projects, to consider key lessons for Belfast, and how they could best be applied.

She outlined to the Members that the study visit would incorporate meetings with Executive Members and Directors from both Leeds and Manchester Councils. The Committee was advised that the visit would include an informal evening function with Manchester City Council, subject to their availability, offering the opportunity to network with counterparts and generate further insights from the Manchester experience.

The Committee was advised of a range of examples of best practice which would be included on the study visit, including:

Manchester, Tuesday, 25th April, 2017

- “Manchester Piccadilly” as an example of a Transport Hub;
- “Spinningfields, New Bailey and Chapel Street” as an example of Grade A office/City centre Living and Phased Regeneration;
- “Home” which was relevant to the Belfast Story/Creative District;
- “The Lowry/BBC Salford” which was relevant to the Belfast Story and the relocation of the BBC; and

Leeds – Wednesday, 26 April, 2017

- “Victoria Gate” which was relevant to Royal Exchange;
- “Leeds BID” which was relevant to City Animation/Interim uses; and
- “Southbank” in terms of masterplans and city centre regeneration.

The Director reminded the Committee that, to gain maximum benefit, it was proposed that a half day workshop for delegates be held prior to the Committee meeting on Wednesday, 12th April. She advised the Committee that this would allow delegates to discuss projects and would give the Members an opportunity to consider key questions and issues in advance.

The Committee was advised that the approximate cost of the Best Practice visit would be £5,000 and this would be met from within existing City Centre Budgets.

The Committee approved the draft agenda and dates for the Best Practice visit and agreed that one Member from each party would form the delegation.

**Belfast Partners Event – London**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of an event taking place in London at the end of February 2017 to promote engagement between business contacts in Belfast and London and to recommend attendance at the event by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the upcoming Belfast Partners event in London on 28 February 2017**
- **Approve attendance at the event by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, or their nominees, along with appropriate senior officer representation.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Members will be aware that, at the December meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update was provided on a range of lobbying and business development activities that had taken place in London in the previous month. These included the work to secure a City Deal for the City, with a presentation to political representatives in Westminster and other relevant influencers. Members were also alerted to the work of the Belfast-Partners Network in London. This is a newly-established, independently-run business networking initiative that seeks to make business linkages between companies and leaders in both Belfast and London.**

**3.2 The formal launch of this network is planned to take place in London on 28 February 2017. This event will be hosted at the headquarters of the global communications business Thomson Reuters in Canary Wharf. It will be attended by more than 150 interested individuals from both cities and there will be an opportunity for the Council to make a positive pitch about the real estate investment opportunities available in Belfast as well as promoting the opportunities for foreign direct investment, particularly the emerging and growing specialisms such as cyber security, legal services and business and professional services.**

- 3.3** The programme for the launch event is currently being finalised. At present, it is proposed that there will be input from Belfast City Council, profiling positive investment messages about the City as a business destination. There will also be input from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire MP and there will be a contribution from an existing investor in the City. This is likely to be a company working in the financial and professional services sector. They will focus on the business benefits of a Belfast base and will look at how the City can offer a positive solution for a range of support services for a business working in a global operating environment. Belfast provides a very attractive alternative or complementary location to London and Dublin. This could be a particularly important ‘sell’ for Belfast in the post-Brexit time as it is being reported that a number of financial institutions are considering moving operations out of London and Belfast can provide an alternative proposition.
- 3.4** Following the formal input, there will be an opportunity for networking with those in attendance. The current RSVP list has more than 200 representatives from companies across a range of sectors including financial services, legal services, investment services, education and training, construction and asset management. The organisers expect that more than 150 will attend on the evening.
- 3.5** The event will be used as a platform to promote the range of investment opportunities in the City as well as emphasising the importance of Belfast as a cost-competitive destination with a well-educated workforce and a commitment to working together to deliver results. It will act as a launch pad for the MIPIM event which will take place in Cannes, France in mid-March 2017 and will also provide an opportunity to re-engage with some of the City influencers to help progress the City Deals proposition for Belfast.
- 3.6** Following the event, a report will be brought back to a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to update on the outcomes of the event and to set out opportunities for the way forward for our future engagement with the Belfast Partners network and our wider connections in London.

**3.7 Financial and resource implications**

Travel and subsistence costs for the Chair and Deputy Chair to cover attendance at this event will not exceed £1,000. These costs will be met from existing Departmental budgets.

**3.8 Equality and good relations implications**

No specific equality or good relations implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Belfast Visitor Attraction**

The Committee considered undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- Update Members on the ongoing development of proposals for a new visitor attraction for Belfast City Centre.
- Outline next steps and proposed programme of work.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the contents of this report and proposed next steps.
- Agree expenditure of up to £120,000 to be taken to SP&R to approve procurement process.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

Members will recall that in January 2016 approval was granted to undertake feasibility work on a major city centre cultural and visitor attraction with further updates provided to City Growth and Regeneration Committee in June 2016 and September 2016.

**3.2 The Belfast City Regeneration and Investment Strategy identifies the need for a major city centre development recommending that serious consideration should be given to the opportunity to create a significant attraction or destination of national or international stature that is distinctive and**

unique to the city. Such a proposition is further supported by the Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 and the Cultural Framework for Belfast 2016-2020. Both of these strategies identify the role of culture and heritage in engaging with local people and connecting the city globally.

- 3.3** In addition to these strategic drivers there is also an opportunity to align with emerging international opportunities. This project will be critical in making the case for Belfast by communicating the level of ambition, commitment and investment in delivering world class and authentic cultural experiences.
- 3.4** Feasibility work is ongoing and to date this work has largely considered the proposal under three priority areas:
- The need for regeneration and community cohesion
  - The need to enhance the tourism offer of the city
  - The need for innovation and skills development to help grow the economy
- 3.5** An initial concept study and economic impact report have been completed and early indications are that such an attraction could result in a step change in the visitor economy resulting in significant increase in overnight stays, dwell time and spend in the city including:
- 24.7 % growth in overnight stays
  - 29.8% growth in number of nights stayed
  - 10.5% growth in spend per night
- 3.6** Further catalytic impacts include the potential for the hub to signpost to and support the existing cultural and tourism infrastructure in the city and the region.
- 3.7** This work culminated in the completion of a Strategic Outline Case recommending that options were taken forward into Outline Business Case.
- 3.8** The Strategic Outline Case has taken into consideration existing or emerging plans for other infrastructure projects within the cultural and tourism sectors and assessed these against six key objectives:
- Regeneration: to develop a landmark city centre destination, increase footfall to area and increase footfall/visitors to neighbourhood attractions.
  - Positioning: to promote Belfast's inter-national reputation as a world class visitor destination.

- **Economy:** to become a catalyst for investment helping to stimulate sustainable economic activity and increase victory economy related employment offer.
- **Community:** to engage in Northern Ireland's culture and heritage through the medium of art, cinema and storytelling.
- **Learning:** to promote learning and skills by establishing strong community and educational linkages.
- **Innovation:** to support clustering, shared working and showcasing of digital and creative talent.

**3.9** The recommendation is that further detailed work should be undertaken to examine the viability of taking forward a single project incorporating a number of key component parts including:

- **Belfast Stories** visitor attraction
- **A film centre** including a cultural cinema
- **Permanent and temporary exhibition space** that can accommodate and support collaborations with major international artists and cultural brands
- **A shared space for cultural / digital / media skills development**
- **Commercial space for retail, food and beverage**

**3.10** Alongside this consideration has also been given for a dedicated gallery in the city and this will be brought forward into any future options appraisal. Belfast City Council continues to work closely with National Museums of Northern Ireland and the Arts Council for Northern Ireland on this proposal.

**3.11** The work to date on developing a new visitor attraction has engaged with a number of key organisations through a steering group including representatives from:

- **Belfast City Council**
- **Department for Communities**
- **National Museums of Northern Ireland**
- **Arts Council of Northern Ireland**
- **Northern Ireland Screen**
- **BBC NI**
- **Libraries NI**

**3.12** **Key Issues**

In line with the strategic outline case it is recommended that a work programme is taken forward over the next 18-24 months

to assess the viability of a new visitor attraction and assess a series of options. This approach is considered standard and has been adopted by other cities when developing a multi-stakeholder proposition including local examples such as Titanic Belfast.

**3.13 This work programme will include:**

- Development of the visitor attraction concept including a detailed design exercise.
- Agreement on governance, organisational design and structure including identifying an appropriate governance and operating model for the project which clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of the various key stakeholders.
- Masterplanning and delivery options.
- Wider stakeholder engagement.
- A viable funding model.
- An outline business case to be presented to Council and government departments.
- Identification of a suitable site and acquisition may be required. However this will be subject to a further report.

**3.14 At this stage it is envisaged that this work would be supported by Belfast City Council in partnership with Tourism NI and the Department of Communities. A bid of £250,000 has been made by Tourism NI for 2017/18 subject to approval.**

**3.15 Financial & Resource Implications**

Up to £120,000 to be allocated from City Centre Development budgets for 2017/18 to contribute to financing of work programme.

**3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no Equality or Good Relations implications at this stage. Equality and Good Relations considerations will be examined as the project develops including community engagement.”

In response to a Member’s question regarding the location of the attraction, the Chief Executive advised the Committee that, while there was a preferred part of the city centre, a specific site had not yet been identified.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report and the proposed next steps;

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2. agreed expenditure of up to £120,000; and
3. agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be requested to approve the initiation of the procurement process.

**Positioning Belfast to Compete**

**2017 Belfast Delegation to MIPIM**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 MIPIM is a key opportunity to promote the City to an international audience of investors and developers. This report updates Members on sponsorship, the final draft programme, and the preparations for the Go To Market Launch event on 21st February.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the contents of the report.

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Members will be pleased to note that, following the successful Launch event on 1 December 2016, sponsorship for the Belfast delegation has been strong. At the time of writing £210,500 of private sector finance has been pledged. This is in addition to the £60,000 already allocated by Council, and well in excess of the £163,000 pledged last year. This level of support creates the platform for a strong and cohesive Belfast delegation, with a diverse range of companies being represented.**

**3.2 MIPIM itself encompasses three full days of activity, each of which will be themed with a different aspect of investment:**

- **Day 1: Ambition & Opportunity – the opening slot will incorporate a keynote presentation from an elected member, and includes an overview of talent, quality of life, and Belfast’s creative industries / film industry/potential film centre. Projects to be showcased include the new Harbour Studios and Titanic Quarter. Day 1 will also include a specific slot highlighting talent and opportunity around young people, including city centre living / residential.**



- **Day 2: Connected City** – this will include an expert panel discussion in relation to high growth sectors, the investment in digital infrastructure, and grade A Offices, projects to be showcased include Transport Hub.
- **Day 3:** this will lead on tourism and hospitality, with presentations from Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, and Titanic Building. Projects to be showcased include the proposed visitor attraction, Giant's Park leisure prospectus, and hotel investment.

**3.3** Belfast has also been invited to participate in an exhibition-wide event discussing the city's unique location and to be a panel member on a discussion on the role of cities in the Estate Gazette's UK Cities Investor Guide launch. Both provide an additional platform to get our message out to a wider audience and further similar opportunities are being pursued.

**3.4** A number of high profile marketing events will take place to attract people to the Belfast stand and promote our message. This includes showcasing the our creative industries principally through Game of Thrones; a presentation on the IRFU all-Ireland bid for the Rugby World Cup in 2023, and a St Patrick's Eve reception. There will also be two investor focused lunches sponsored by Savills and Arup respectively.

**3.5** A press and social media strategy has been developed to project our message before, during and after the event. A key component of this is the Go To Market launch event, to be held at the Belfast Waterfront on 21 February. This will highlight the wider marketing efforts underway internationally and all members will be invited to attend.

The launch will incorporate presentations from the chair of City Growth and Regeneration committee, chief executive, and private sector chair of the Steering Group; and will showcase a refreshed video highlighting the Belfast proposition.

**3.6** A key objective in the Belfast Agenda is to attract £1 billion of investment into the city by 2021, and impact from MIPIM should be viewed within this context and time frame. Last year feedback from the sector indicated MIPIM helped put Belfast back on the development map, and recent investment visits to the city have been promising. The 2017 delegation will provide a platform to deepen these contracts, and start to match specific investors with tangible projects and regeneration opportunities across the city.

**3.7 Finance & Resource Implications**

**We are profiling a balanced budget for MIPIM, and no additional costs beyond the £60,000 allocated by Committee last May are anticipated.**

**3.8 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**None.”**

In response to a Member’s question, the Chief Executive confirmed that specific literature was being produced for MIPIM, which would be focussed on the figures which developers needed when considering investing in a city and that a draft would be submitted to the next Committee meeting for Members’ information.

During discussion, the Committee agreed to the attendance of a support officer to accompany the delegation to MIPIM 2017.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Draft City Events - Programme of Events**

The Director of Development provided the Committee with the draft City Events Unit’s Programme of Events for 2017/2018.

During discussion, the Chief Executive clarified to the Members that the programme was not a list of all the events which received funding from the Council, but that it was the events which were funded through the City Events Unit.

A Member requested that further information be brought back on the economic impact that each event brought to Belfast. The Director of Development advised the Members that the overall review of the city events and festivals structure was in progress and that it would be discussed at the City Growth and Regeneration Workshop on 6th March, 2017.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That a detailed report be submitted, as soon as possible, on the potential new structure for city events and festivals and on the economic impact that each current event brings, including how much money the Council allocates towards it, the number of bed nights that they bring and the revenue which they add to the city, if possible.

On a vote by show of hands seven Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

**Operational Issues**

**Committee Workshop - Proposed Agenda**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to confirm the arrangements for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee’s 2017/18 Planning Workshop. As agreed by Committee this workshop will allow Members to shape the upcoming work and agenda of the Committee, the new Corporate Plan, informed by the Council’s budget setting process for 2017/18.**

**1.2 The workshop will reflect on how the Committee can lead and shape implementation of the emerging priorities within the Belfast Agenda, consider how the Committee can build on the work that it has undertaken to date to grow the local economy and how the regenerative impact of the work of the Council and its partners can be maximised.**

**1.3 The Committee has previously received reports on the progress with the current Committee Plan and the emerging programmes of work in relation to taking forward the Belfast Agenda ambitions. Therefore the focus of the workshop will be to:**

- Review the progress and achievements of the Committee Plan in 2016/17; and**
- Translate the priorities of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan into a work plan for the Committee to deliver in 2017/18.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the date for the Committee Planning Workshop which will be held on Monday 6th March at 12.00pm; and**
- Note the draft agenda for the workshop, available on modern.gov.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for:**

- The development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed towards regeneration and growth of the city in the context of outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy decisions.
- Oversight of the exercise of Council functions in relation to economic development, urban development, tourism, culture & arts, European and international relations, car parks, city markets, city events, Belfast Castle, Malone House and Belfast Zoo.

**3.2 The Committee is currently working to an ambitious Committee Plan, aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan and emerging Belfast Agenda. The following priorities were agreed in November 2015 and progress in delivering the plan was noted by Committee at their meeting in November 2016:**

- City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy, which aims to increase the employment and residential population in the city, maximise the tourism opportunity, create learning and innovation centres; a green, cyclable, walkable city; a shared space and social impact. This includes the development of major projects such a new visitor attraction (Belfast Story), support for hotel and Grade A office developments as well as more focused place-making opportunities in the city centre.
- Employability & Skills Framework (& Year 1 Action Plan);
- International Relations Framework;
- Place positioning and maximising the opportunities for investment, tourism and regeneration;
- Integrated Tourism Strategy;
- Investigate the feasibility of a City Deal for Belfast;
- Develop a car parking strategy;
- Ensure the above strategies give consideration to connecting neighbourhoods to the city centre, ensuring that the whole city enjoys the benefits.

**3.3 Belfast Agenda**

The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth. The Committee has played a key role in ensuring that the narrative of the agenda balances the need for economic

growth with the purpose of this growth – to connect people to opportunity and reduce inequality.

**3.4** The Committee is familiar with the four main priorities in the Belfast Agenda which demonstrate the centrality of growing the local economy to improving quality of life in Belfast and the importance of the role that the Committee will play in ensuring that the Council's contribution to implementing the agenda is maximised. By 2021, the draft Belfast Agenda commits the Council to lead on:

- The creation of 15,000 new jobs;
- Support for 4,000 small business start-ups; and
- Attracting £1 billion of private sector Foreign Direct Investment.

**3.5** As the Committee will be aware, the Belfast Agenda, is currently out for public consultation with four public events scheduled as follows:

- 30 January 2017, Girdwood Community Hub
- 02 February 2017, Olympia
- 09 February 2017, Skainos Centre
- 13 February 2017, Innovation Factory

**3.6** With the Local Development Plan also launched for public consultation on 26 January 2017, this is a new phase of strategic planning for the Council. The workshop provides an opportunity to take account of the initial feedback from these events and the decisions made during the budget setting process to enable the Committee to effectively prioritise and allocate its agreed resources.

**3.7** **Format and Agenda for the Workshop**

Given the strategic role of the Committee and the need to prioritise programmes and activity across a number of the priorities in the Belfast Agenda (i.e. Growing the Economy, City Development and Working & Learning) it is proposed that the workshop will follow a similar format to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee Workshop, with the expertise of an independent facilitator.

**3.8** The Committee has previously agreed to the ongoing economic expertise provided through the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) and given the significant changes to the economic environment, the workshop provides an opportunity to set the Council's ambitions and the Committee's priorities within the current economic context.

It is proposed that the UUEPC provides an overview of their current economic outlook, with specific reference to Belfast in order to place the discussion in context.

- 3.9 Members have an important role in leading the work to ensure that benefits of city-region growth are maximised. As Members are aware, many of the city's economic challenges such as economic inactivity, skills and employability levels and low levels of business start-up persist beyond the Council's geographic boundaries and will require a whole systems approach if they are to be addressed. Additionally, as the capital city and gateway to the region many of the key growth issues, such as the need for the effective infrastructure that supports growth also need to be considered and feature strongly in the Committee's agenda.
- 3.10 With this in mind, the Committee previously agreed to regular Committee sessions to consider key strategic issues for the city and have received an increasing number of presentations and briefings in relation to transport, city infrastructure, car parking, specific industry input from economic growth sectors such as Cyber Security, retail etc. The workshop will enable the Committee to consider how to maximise their strategic role in relation to these key issues for the city.
- 3.11 Last month the Committee agreed that to deliver the targets outlined in the Belfast Agenda will require a significant uplift in the investment and resource commitment from the Council to ensure that, along with partner organisations, we develop a menu of the right support services and programmes to grow the economy and support city development. The Committee therefore agreed to additional investment in 2017/18 to enable preparatory and developmental work to be undertaken in order to significantly enhance the small business and investment services and align this with the planned employability and skills programmes. The workshop will therefore provide a key opportunity to consider how the Council can effectively use these resources to develop a comprehensive and coordinated 'small business service' and an 'investor advice service' along with the Belfast Works Programme which focuses on developing skills and employment opportunities for those furthest from the labour market and the Smart Cities Framework.
- 3.12 A draft agenda for the workshop is available on modern.gov which highlights some key questions for the Committee to help prioritise their ongoing and emerging commitments and priorities for 2017/18 which will form the basis of the City

Growth & Regeneration Committee work-plan and the Corporate Plan.

**3.13 Financial Implications**

The Committee agreed the budget limit of £15.8m for 2017/18 in January 2017.

- 3.14** The Committee has agreed that the direction of travel to grow the economy and support city development is a significant step-up from the current provision and requires additional investment from the Council as well as the ability to lever partnership funding from other public and private sector organisations. The workshop will therefore enable the Committee to consider how best to effectively prioritise and allocate its resources in line with the Belfast Agenda to ensure maximum impact.

**3.15 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

There are no direct implications at this stage; however, programmes and actions will be developed in conjunction with the Equality & Diversity Officer.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Infographic Facts and Figures and Programme Performance**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1** The Belfast Agenda sets a challenging ambition for the city to be home to an additional 70,000 new residents and an economy that supports 50,000 more jobs by 2035. Growing the economy and driving inclusive growth to ensure that all people benefit from economic success is at the core of this ambition.
- 1.2** To deliver on this, the Council is increasing its ambition around positioning the city to attract international investment from developers, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and institutional investment. Last month the Committee agreed the direction of travel for Council’s support to accelerate new businesses to start, support existing businesses to grow and export as well as encouraging increased investment into Belfast. It is also supportive of work being undertaken by partner organisations to increase the number of international

students in the city, grow tourism investment and support more FDI as well as helping local businesses to become more active in international export markets

- 1.3 Central to delivery on these plans is the provision of a sound, accessible and consistent evidence base that positions Belfast as a city to do business in, to invest in and to visit or study. Based on the presentations and economic briefings the Committee has received, requests have also been made by Members for more accessible information on Belfast's economy, its growth sectors, accolades and the opportunities the city presents globally to raise awareness of the key messages, strengths and opportunities to grow the economy. This will help ensure that Members and Officers have succinct, up-to-date and compelling information when engaging with potential stakeholders about the city to enhance Belfast's image and reputation as a successful and dynamic city in the international environment.
- 1.4 Documents such as 'Belfast: A Fantastic Time to Invest' (available on modern.gov) have been produced to support recent city-to-city engagements with Boston and London highlighting the key reasons to invest in Belfast as well as the major development opportunities that the city offers. This information has been well received by external audiences and is a useful example of the type of information currently being produced to support efforts to pitch Belfast as a place to do business and invest in. This is critical to realise the plans for city centre development and recognition for Belfast's role as the regional economic driver.
- 1.5 Council officers are currently compiling concise infographic-style materials on key statistics and information to support the ambitions to grow the economy and city development, in line with the Belfast Agenda. This includes:
- Key statistics on the Belfast economy and its growth sectors and accolades;
  - Options for the development of a 'Belfast Economic Monitor', as discussed by Committee in January 2017

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to
- consider and note the proposed content for the documents
  - provide suggestions and requests for content that they would like to see



- note that infographic materials will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee for its input and consideration.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

Elected Members currently receive a range of statistical information on Belfast, such as the Profile of Belfast in the Elected Members Handbook, Area Working Group Profiles etc. The Committee has also received a series of economic briefings as well as updates and presentations on key strategic developments such as the recent presentation on the growth of the cyber sector in Belfast, the retail sector, updates on the Council's international relations commitments, city centre developments and progress in taking forward a City-Region Growth Deal.

**3.2** Some examples of the information the Committee has already received that is informing the production of the facts & figures document is available on modern.gov. This includes

- A Belfast Profile produced by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (December 2016);
- Competitiveness scorecard performance from the assessment of the Competitiveness of the Northern Ireland Economy, produced by the NI Economic Advisory Group (July 2016).

**3.3** To support the international relations activity and city-to-city engagements raising Belfast's profile and reputation as a place to do business and invest in, concise publications such as 'Belfast: A fantastic time to invest' have been produced. This highlights the reasons to invest in Belfast, outlines the key economic growth sectors and provides a snapshot of major development opportunities in the city. This document has been used to support the recent engagements with Boston and London and has been positively received by external audiences.

**3.4** As the demand for this information grows and the volume of information provided also increases, along with the commitment to monitor and deliver on the commitments contained in the Belfast Agenda it is accepted that a more concise and visual representation of this information is required. This will provide a more user-friendly and accessible addition to the resources produced to support Members, in line with the Belfast Agenda ambition to grow the economy and develop the city by positioning Belfast as a place to invest, study and visit.

**3.5** Based on the current economic performance which indicates the strengths of the economy as labour costs, improving infrastructure and a strong stock of graduate labour (Oxford Economic, 2016; UUEPC 2016) it is suggested a 'Facts and Figures Guide to Belfast' is built around the following key data and information.

**3.6** Belfast's Population and Workforce

- Belfast population stands at 338,907; with over 670,000 in the wider metropolitan area. The city has one of the youngest populations in Europe and two thirds of the population are working age (NISRA 2016).
- Belfast is the employment hub of the region, with around one third of the region's jobs based in the city (over 220,000 jobs), the majority of which are in the services sector (NISRA 2016). 58% of people working in Belfast live outside the Belfast City Council area.
- Belfast contributes to 29% of the region's productivity (GVA) (UUEPC 2016).
- Almost a third of Belfast's population aged 16-24 is qualified to NVQ level 4 (degree level) or above (32.5%, NISRA 2015).

Accolades:

- Belfast has ranked eighth in a list of the top 19 cities to live and work in the UK, according to a survey by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (Good Growth for Cities 2015).

**3.7** Business in Belfast

- Belfast is a compact and connected city and has a strong business support eco-system.
- Belfast is home to over 9,000 businesses, with the vast majority (96%) being micro and small businesses (IDBR).
- Key Growth Sectors – NI's Knowledge Economy employs over 37,500 people (2015). Much of this growing sector centres around Belfast given its role as a skills and infrastructure hub (UUEPC/Oxford Economics 2015). Growing specialisms are emerging in the fields of Cyber Security, Financial Technology, Financial & Legal Services, Creative & Digital Industries, Green Tech and Life & Health Sciences.

**Accolades:**

- Small European City of the Future – Business Friendliness (fDi magazine 2015 and 2016)
- Belfast is in the top 20 cities in the world for FDI Strategy (fDi 2016).
- Second fastest growing Knowledge Economy in the UK.
- Belfast is number one in the world for US FDI in cyber security (FT FDI Index 2016).

**3.8 Attracting investment**

- Belfast has developed a successful track-record in attracting FDI to the city in recent years, securing over 20,000 inward investment jobs in the past decade.
- Over 70% of university research is world leading or internationally excellent (Research Excellence Framework, 2014). Belfast is home to several globally recognised research centres across a range of fields such as secure information technologies, cognitive robotics, renewable technologies and cancer research.
- Tourism is an important sector in terms of employment (particularly in terms of the hotels and hospitality sector) as well as attracting visitors and increasing spend in the local economy – with around 1.4m overnight trips in Belfast in 2015 and three of the region’s top five tourist attractions are in Belfast (2015).

**Accolades:**

- Belfast is Europe’s top destination for software development projects (fDi).
- Number one destination in the world for financial technology investment (fDi 2015).
- NI is the leading region in the UK for inward investment (Invest NI).
- Titanic Belfast was the ‘World’s Leading Tourist Attraction’ (World Travel Awards 2016).

**3.9** In addition, there is scope to include reference to key facts and assets relating to city development such as the pipeline of development planned for the city and its high speed telecoms activity that will support such developments.

**3.10** The factors that influence economic growth do not solely lie within the local government’s control therefore strengthening business relationships and local-central government relationships is a central tenet of the Belfast Agenda as well as being critical to build the city’s role as the regional driver. Therefore, these materials will evolve over time in line with the ongoing work on Place Positioning and will support existing

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**material used by our city partners when promoting Belfast as a place to do business, visit, study or invest in.**

- 3.11 The Committee should note these materials will be made available on the Members Portal, and that regular updates will be brought back to Committee.**
- 3.12 Financial & Resource Implications  
The publications will be produced internally and within existing departmental budgets.**
- 3.13 Equality & Good Relations Implications  
There are no equality or good relations implications.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**South by Southwest - SXS**

The Director of Development advised the Committee that, considering a number of businesses were joining the Council delegation to the South by Southwest conference, he felt an additional Council officer should accompany the group.

The Committee agreed that a second officer would accompany the delegation to the SXS conference.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**The information contained in the following report is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

**Outstanding Accounts**

The Director of Development advised the Committee that, on occasion, a number of debtors who had received services from the Council failed to pay. He advised the Members that this was despite the Central Transactions Unit (CTU) having implemented the Council's procedures for recovering outstanding debt.

The Committee was informed that Legal Services had advised that there was no legal avenue left for the Council to successfully pursue a number of debts totalling £13,270.50 which did not expose the Council to unacceptable risk of incurring yet more unrecoverable costs and had recommended that the debts be written off.

The Committee agreed to authorise that the outstanding accounts, totalling £13,270.50, be written off in accordance with Section M12 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

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**Request to Present**

**Belfast Power Limited**

The Committee acceded to a request from Belfast Power Limited to receive a presentation at its meeting on 12th April, 2017, in relation to its plans for a gas fired power station at Airport Road West in the Belfast Harbour Estate.

Chairperson

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## Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 15th February, 2017

### MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Armitage (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Sandford and Spence; and Councillors  
Bell, Boyle, Clarke, Collins, Copeland, Dudgeon,  
Groves, Heading, Hutchinson, McConville and Milne.

In attendance: Mr. P. Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager;  
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell), Aldermen McCoubrey and L. Patterson and Councillor Magennis.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)**

#### **Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority**

The Committee noted a list of licences and permits which had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

#### **Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence – Blanchflower Playing Fields**

The Committee was informed that an application had been received from the Council's City and Neighbourhood Services Department for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Blanchflower Playing Fields, based upon the Council's standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment.

The Assistant Building Control Manager explained that it was proposed that the venue be used for small community-type events and that the licence, if granted, would

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permit those to take place from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. and would include special conditions around occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints. No written representation had been received in respect of the application and neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered any objection. However, they would each be consulted in advance of any proposed events, as would the Council's Environmental Protection Unit in relation to any potential noise issues. He pointed out that officers of the Building Control Service and the Parks Service had held discussions around the long-term use of the venue and that organisers and other relevant parties would, in advance of events taking place, be advised of the need to submit the relevant event documentation and to meet all safety and technical requirements.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Blanchflower Playing Fields, Holywood Road.

**Application for Extended Hours – Belfast  
Craft Beer Festival, Custom House Square**

The Assistant Building Control Manager informed the Members that Custom House Square was managed currently by the Department for Communities and that it held both a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence, which were transferred to promoters for the duration of their events. Each licence permitted entertainment to take place from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. and had conditions attached in relation to occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints.

He reminded the Committee that it had, in the past, granted approval for a number of events and festivals to operate beyond 11.00 p.m. within the venue and highlighted, in particular, its decision of 16th March, 2016, to extend the standard hours on the Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence to allow entertainment to take place till midnight on the nights of 22nd and 23rd April, as part of the inaugural Belfast Craft Beer Festival.

He reported that this year's festival would once again be taking place within a marquee within Custom House Square from Thursday, 25th till Monday, 29th May and that the organisers had sought the Committee's approval to operate till midnight on each of those nights, with a view to maximising their patrons' experience of the various foods and beers on offer.

The Assistant Building Control Manager pointed out that, since the application related to the extension of the hours permitted under an existing licensing condition, rather than the variation of the Entertainments Licence itself, there had been no requirement for it to be advertised. In terms of statutory consultees, neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered objections and they each would be working closely with the organisers, the Council and other organisations to address any issues in the lead up to the festival.



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He informed the Members that discussions had already taken place with the organisers and with representatives of the Department for Communities around the documentation to be submitted in advance of the event and the need to meet all technical requirements. In addition, the organisers were working with Council officers to ensure that appropriate measures were put in place to protect public safety and reduce the potential for noise disturbance and nuisance and were developing an appropriate letter to be forwarded to local residents advising them of the programme of events and the nights on which they planned to operate beyond 11.00 p.m.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, that the standard hours on the Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for Custom House Square be extended to enable entertainment to take place till midnight from Thursday, 25th till Monday, 29th May, as part of the Belfast Craft Beer Festival, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

**Applications for the Renewal of Entertainments  
Licences with Previous Convictions**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider applications for Entertainments Licences where the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (NI) Order 1985 (the Order) within the previous five years.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Taking into account the information presented, the Committee is requested to:**

- 1. approve the applications, or**
- 2. should you be of a mind to refuse any of the applications, or approve any applications with additional special conditions, an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the Committee must be given to the applicants.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence applications which are not the subject of objections is that the licence will be granted as provided for in the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.**

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**3.2 However, as each applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the Council, you are required to consider the following applications:**

<b>Premises and Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Offence Details</b>	<b>Date of Conviction and Penalty</b>
<p><b>Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club</b></p> <p>Wilgar Street Belfast BT4 3BL</p>	<p>Susan Gilmore (Secretary)</p>	<p>Renewal</p>	<p><b>24th November 2012</b></p> <p>Overcrowding Obstructed Emergency Exit Route</p>	<p><b>23rd July 2013</b></p> <p>£400 and £69 Court costs</p>
<p><b>Hole In The Wall</b></p> <p>1-3 Baltic Avenue Belfast BT15 2HR</p>	<p>H.I.T.W Limited</p>	<p>Renewal</p>	<p><b>13th February 2016</b></p> <p>An exit route from the side of the bar was blocked with a speaker and a fridge.</p> <p>A mag lock was installed to a final exit door, which prevented the door from being opened, a final exit within the smoking area was locked and a push bar had been replaced with a tea spoon on another fire exit door.</p> <p>An exit route to the fire panel and a final exit was blocked with tables and chairs and a door leading to an exit route was locked.</p>	<p><b>On appeal 25th November 2016</b></p> <p>£6000 and £66 Court costs.</p> <p>Original penalty was <b>£9000</b> but following Appeal by the applicant it was reduced to £6000.</p>

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			<p>There were no 'Fire Exit Keep Clear' signs fitted to doorsets, as required, and break glass fire action signs were missing.</p> <p>The emergency exit signs were not illuminated throughout the premises.</p> <p>No evidence of any pre-event log book checks being carried out.</p> <p>No evacuation procedures were in place.</p> <p>Staff were not instructed or trained on the action to be taken in the event of a fire.</p> <p>The noise limiting device was not operating when entertainment was being provided.</p>	
<p><b>The Cuckoo</b> 149 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 7AJ</p>	<p>North Down Leisure Limited</p>	<p>Renewal</p>	<p><b>24th August, 2012</b></p> <p>Locked Exit door</p>	<p><b>26th March, 2013</b></p> <p>£400 and £69 Court costs.</p>

**3.3 Notwithstanding the possibility of refusing an Entertainments Licence on any other grounds, the Council may refuse an application on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Order.**

**Application History**

***Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club***

- 3.4 Previous renewal applications for the premises were brought before the Committee on 19th February 2014, 21st January 2015 and 15th June 2016 and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the licence on each occasion.
- 3.5 Since then, the premises have been subject to two further during performance inspections as well as the recent renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and we have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.

***Hole In The Wall***

- 3.6 Members will recall that, at your meeting last month, you agreed to defer consideration of this application due to the applicant not being present or providing any reason as to his non-attendance.
- 3.7 The applicant has given an assurance that he will be attending this month's meeting and apologised for not attending your January meeting and advised that he had fallen ill.
- 3.8 These are the first offences committed by the applicant and, therefore, this is the first time since the applicant was convicted that the Committee has an opportunity to take them into account in considering the application for the renewal of the licence.
- 3.9 Due to the seriousness of the offences, officers met with the applicant on several occasions to ensure that the problems were resolved and revised measures were put in place to prevent further problems. The meetings involved a critical analysis of the passive and active safety measures as well as the management procedures that the applicant had in place for the premises.
- 3.10 Since then, the premises have been subject to two further during performance inspections as well as a renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and we have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.

***The Cuckoo***

- 3.11 Previous renewal applications for the premises were brought before the Committee on 18th September 2013, 15th April 2015

and 12th November 2015 and, after consideration, you agreed to grant the licence on each occasion.

- 3.12 The premises has also been subject to three further during performance inspections as well as the renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and we have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.

**Representations**

- 3.13 Notice of the applications has been advertised and no written representations have been received.

**PSNI**

- 3.14 The PSNI has confirmed that it has no objections to the applications.

**NIFRS**

- 3.15 The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to each of the applications and has confirmed that it has no objections.

**Applicants**

- 3.16 The applicants and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries which you may have in relation to their respective applications.
- 3.17 Copies of the respective application forms for each of the premises have been circulated to the Committee.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.18 Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment which is catered for within existing budgets.

**Equality and Good Relations Implications**

- 3.19 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.”

**Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club, Wilgar Street**

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club, Wilgar Street.

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**Hole in the Wall, 1-3 Baltic Avenue**

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain further information on this application from the applicant and, accordingly, Mr. G. Conn was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Conn informed the Committee that he had been unable to attend its meeting on 15th January due to illness and proceeded to address the issues which had given rise to his conviction. He explained that, because of personal reasons, he had been absent from the premises in the period leading up to the inspection by Council officers on 13th February, 2016 and had been under the impression that they were still being managed effectively. However, that had not been the case and, as the licensee, he accepted full responsibility for the offences.

He outlined a number of measures which had since been put in place to improve the overall operation of the bar, which had included the removal of the manager who had been covering for him in his absence, together with a number of other staff. Those staff who remained had been fully briefed on the Council's Rules of Management for places of indoor entertainment and he would, in future, be present on all occasions on which entertainment was taking place. In addition, a pool table had been removed from the bar area to provide additional space and only traditional or acoustic music would be provided, in order to keep noise levels to a minimum. Mr. Conn concluded by highlighting the significant financial and other pressures which had been placed upon both him and his business as a result of his conviction and assured the Committee that he would continue to work with Council officers to address any issues and had no difficulty with them undertaking regular inspections of the premises.

In response to a question from a Member, Mr. Conn pointed out that the items which had been found to be blocking exit routes had been moved there during refurbishment work which was being carried out on the floor above, which had since been completed.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Conn for his contribution.

During discussion, the Assistant Building Control Manager confirmed that, since the offences had been detected, officers of the Building Control Service had worked closely with the applicant to improve the overall operation of the premises and, at this point in time, they were content with the progress which had been made. He assured the Committee that, should the Entertainments Licence be renewed, officers would continue to implement a robust inspection programme to prevent a recurrence of the issues which had arisen previously.

The Divisional Solicitor reminded the Committee that, should it renew the licence, on the basis of the assurances which had been provided by the applicant, and he be convicted of further offences, he would, in line with the new approach which it had adopted at its meeting on 18th January, be invited to appear before the Committee to offer reasons why his licence should not be revoked, rather than having to wait until it was due for renewal, as had been the case previously.

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After further discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Hole in the Wall Bar, 1 – 3 Baltic Avenue.

**The Cuckoo, 149 Lisburn Road**

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of The Cuckoo, 149 Lisburn Road.

**Responses from Statutory Consultees**

At the request of a Member, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on the responses by statutory consultees to applications for licences/permits which had been processed by the Building Control Service during the past year.

**Non-Delegated Matters**

**Update on Outcome of Judicial Review Applications**

The Assistant Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meetings on 19th March and 6th October, 2014, it had granted Amusements Permits for Mavericks, 24 – 28 Bradbury Place and Onassis Amusements, 25 – 41 Botanic Avenue, respectively.

He explained that Oasis Retail Services Limited, which operated an amusement arcade close to both locations, had sought leave to apply for a judicial review of those decisions, in the context of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy and, specifically, that criterion relating to cumulative build-up, which sought to control arcade numbers within any given location and encourage other forms of retail development. The matter had been heard by Judge Maguire on 23rd and 24th June, 2016 and judgement had been handed down on 13th January.

He reported that, in relation to the Botanic Avenue application, leave to apply for judicial review had been granted but the challenge had been dismissed, as the court had not been satisfied that the Council had failed to consider the issue of cumulative impact/proliferation of permits in relation to the character and amenity of the area or of the issue of the fitness of the applicant. In terms of the Bradbury Place application, leave to apply for judicial review had been refused but it had been stated that, should it have been granted, the outcome would have been the same as that for the Botanic Avenue application.

The Assistant Building Control Manager pointed out that, in dismissing the challenges, Judge Maguire had raised concerns around the current wording of the Amusement Permit Policy. He confirmed that a review of the Policy, which had been delayed pending the outcome of the judicial review proceedings, would now commence and would involve officers from the Building Control Service and the Legal Services Section, together with Dr. T. Quinn, who had assisted in the formulation of the document.

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The Committee would be advised in due course of the outcome of that review and any potential amendments.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that a copy of the Court Judgement was available on the Mod.gov site.

**Provision of Training for the Licensing Committee**

The Assistant Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that it had delegated authority for determining applications for Amusement Permits, Entertainments Licences, pavement cafés, sex establishments and street trading and for commenting on those relating to Liquor Licences and the registration of clubs. It was responsible also for the consideration of all policies and legislation governing licensing issues, with any recommendations requiring approval by the Strategic Policy and the Resources Committee and by the Council.

He reported that, at previous meetings, Members had raised concerns around the Committee's decision-making processes and the associated implications and it had been suggested that it would be beneficial to obtain training to assist it in discharging its responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that Members should advise the Divisional Solicitor of any topics which they would wish to have included within that training and noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting providing details on a proposed training programme, which would be available to all Members of the Council.

Chairperson



## Planning Committee

Tuesday, 14th February, 2017

### MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Johnston (Chairperson);  
Alderman McGimpsey; and  
Councillors Armitage, Dorrian, Garrett, Hussey,  
Hutchinson, Jones, Magee, McAteer and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;  
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Miss. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 17th January and the special meeting of 24th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### **Declaration of Interest**

Regarding item 11.n) LA04/2016/2500/F- Upgrade to bowling green walls, paths, flood lighting, PA system, irrigation compound with Glass Reinforced Plastic kiosk, Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Armitage, Jones, and Hussey declared an interest, in so far as they were Members of the East Area Working Group which had allocated funding to the project.

Councillor Garrett declared an interest regarding item (p) LA04/2015/1488/F- 122 Blacks Road - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of proposed 6 apartments with associated parking and amenity space, in that he had spoken with the applicant about the proposal.

### **Planning Appeals Notified**

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission, together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

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**Planning Decisions Notified**

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under delegated authority by the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 9th January and 10th February.

**Departmental Performance Update**

The Development Engagement Manager provided the following information on the Department's performance to date:

*Planning Applications*

- 123 applications had been validated in January, 2017; and
- Overall numbers of applications validated this year had increased by 15% (1,687 up to 31st January, 2017 compared to 1,442 up to 31st January, 2016).

*Planning Decisions*

- 156 decisions had been issued in January, 2017.
- 92% approval rate;
- 92% decisions had been issued under delegated authority; and
- the number of decisions issued to date had increased by 32% over the same period in 2016. (1,184 up to 31st January, 2016 compared to 1,741 up to 31st January, 2017).

*No. of applications in system by length of time*

- 1,024 live applications were in the system at end of January, 2017;
- 57% of applications were in the system for less than 6 months; and
- Less than 29 legacy applications were outstanding (reduced from 780 at transfer in April, 2015).

*Performance against statutory targets (figures available up to 31st December)*

- The statutory target for processing major development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was within an average of 30 weeks. Up to 31st December, 2016 the average processing time to decide major applications was 65 weeks. This, however, included legacy applications and those Major applications which had been delayed whilst a Section 76 agreement had been put in place;
- The statutory target for processing local development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was an average of 15 weeks. Up to 31st December, 2016, the average processing time to decide local applications was 15 weeks; and

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- The statutory target was that 70% of all enforcement cases are progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. Between 1st April and 30th November, 2016, 76.7% of enforcement cases had been concluded within 39 weeks.

Noted.

**Response to Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) Consultation**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 To present for consideration and comment a consultation from the Planning Appeals Commission on Draft Procedures for the independent examination of Local Development Plans.
- 1.2 The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) has consulted the Council on the preparation of a guidance document in relation to the procedures surrounding the independent examination stage of the Local Development Plan. It has issued a consultation document comprising draft procedures for comment – copy attached at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 The closing date for submissions is 27th March 2017. The proposed draft response is attached in Appendix 1 for consideration.

**2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the consultation draft procedures document issued by the PAC (see Appendix 2). It is further recommended that the Committee considers the draft written response to the PAC (see Appendix 1) and, if appropriate, approve its submission to the PAC as the Council's response to the consultation.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Introduction**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the new Belfast Local Development Plan is currently in preparation and the Council's Preferred Options Paper has recently been published for consultation. The Plan is made up of two main components: the Draft Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. Following extensive engagement, both parts of the Plan

will be subject to an independent examination, which will be carried out by the PAC.

- 3.2 The independent examination is specifically to assess the conformity of the plan documents with the statutory requirements and their soundness. The concept of soundness is based on a number of tests set out in the former Department of the Environment's Development Plan Practice Note 6. The tests are based upon three categories which relate to (1) how the development plan document has been produced; (2) the alignment with central government/regional plans, policy and guidance; and (3) the coherence, consistency and effectiveness of its content. A summary of the tests for soundness is included at Appendix 3 of the PAC's consultation document.

#### Consultation Document

- 3.3 The PAC's draft independent examination procedures document provides guidance on a number of key matters. These include the making of representations, the submission of the plan documents to the Department (and the PAC), the independent examination hearing itself and the PAC's final report. The guidance is aimed at all parties involved in the process, including planning authorities, consultants, developers, interest groups and individual objectors.
- 3.4 The commitment by the PAC to prepare procedural guidance on the independent examination of the Local Development Plan is to be welcomed. The guidance will be useful in preparing for and participating in examinations, particularly in the context of the new planning process and new planning authorities.
- 3.5 The draft guidance stresses that the independent examination of the plan documents is solely on statutory requirements and soundness. This fact is referred to throughout the guidance and it is important that all parties are fully aware of this requirement. Restricting the examination to such matters should result in more focussed and efficient public hearings.
- 3.6 The draft document provides guidance on how representations should be made – again confirming that they should relate to soundness. It encourages the use of forms for making representations and supports brevity and clarity. It suggests that individuals with a common concern could make a joint submission and, in this regard, it states that the substance of representations is more important than the

volume. Similarly, it confirms that written representations will be given equal weight to oral submissions.

- 3.7** The draft guidance sets out the information that the planning authorities should make available to the Department for Infrastructure and PAC in submitting plan documents for examination. This includes an analysis of submissions and the Council's opinion on them. It also includes any supporting evidence, such as topic papers, technical supplements and a self-assessment of legal compliance and soundness.
- 3.8** In advance of the actual independent examination public hearing, the guidance states that the PAC will give initial consideration to procedural and soundness matters. In the event that the PAC thinks that the plan is deficient in some way, it will engage with the planning authority and other relevant parties to seek a resolution.
- 3.9** The draft guidance provides detail on the format of the public hearing sessions. Hearings will be in the form of a round table discussion, chaired by a Commissioner and avoiding undue legalism. This more informal approach is welcomed as undue formality can lead to very adversarial and legalistic exchanges. In this regard, the Commissioner will have to ensure that the informal approach is maintained and that all persons have equal opportunity to make their views known.
- 3.10** Following the public hearing sessions, the Commissioner will prepare a report on the plan document's legality and soundness. This report is made to the Department for Infrastructure, which will then decide whether to direct the plan document to be adopted, modified or withdrawn.
- 3.11** It is noted that, throughout the draft document, there is little reference to timescales. In this regard, it is important that the independent examination stages of the LDP process are as efficient and effective as possible and do not result in undue delay to the plan. This is of particular importance as the Council has published a timetable for the preparation of the LDP and significant time spent in the examination stages, which is outside the Council's direct control, could prejudice the timely adoption of the new plan. This raises concerns that delays could ultimately affect the Plan's soundness. It is considered that the finalised guidance document should give indicative timeframes for each stage of the examination process, including the pre-hearing stage, the hearing itself and the final reporting stage.
- 3.12** The recommended response is set out in Appendix 1. In summary, the proposed procedures document around the

independent examination of LDP documents is welcomed. This is a new procedure within a new planning system and the procedural guidance should be helpful to all parties involved in the process. However, there are a number of important matters that should be expanded on or clarified, including the format of the hearing sessions and indicative timeframes for the stages of the process. These matters are highlighted in the draft response.

**3.13 Finance and Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

**3.14 Asset and Other Implications**

None noted.

**3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no relevant equality or good relations implications attached to this report.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the submission of the response outlined in the report regarding the Draft Procedures for the Independent Examination of Local Development Plans to the Planning Appeals Commission. (Copy available on Modern.gov).

**Response to Environmental Impact Regulations Consultation**

The Committee considered the following report, together with the associated appendices:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to establish Belfast City Council’s response to a consultation on proposed changes to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 That the Planning Committee supports the recommended response to the consultation as set out at Appendix 1.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations were introduced a number of years ago to provide a framework for assessing ‘significant environmental effects’ resulting from

certain development proposals. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations stem from a European Union Directive and are currently enshrined in the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Environmental Impact Regulations generally apply to schemes whose impacts are more than local in nature. For example, they may apply to regional significant proposals or smaller developments that may raise critical issues that extend beyond the site. 'Significant environmental effects' may be environmental, economic or social impacts. Both positive and negative significant effects must be considered. Where a proposal is likely to result in 'significant environmental effects', the planning application must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The purpose of the Environmental Statement is to set out what the significant environmental effects are and how these are to be managed or mitigated through the development process. Applications requiring an Environmental Statement are subject to additional requirements around the length of determination and consultation.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations stipulate two categories of development: Schedule 1 and Schedule 2. Schedule 1 developments include major infrastructure projects such as power stations, harbours and oil refineries. An Environmental Statement is automatically required for any development falling within Schedule 1. Schedule 2 sets out a range of development types with thresholds. If the proposal exceeds the threshold, or if the site is within a sensitive area, the determining authority must decide whether the proposal would likely result in 'significant environmental effects'. This process is called 'screening'. If the answer is affirmative then the application must be supported by an Environmental Statement. The applicant may request that the determining authority advises them what should be included in the Environmental Statement. This process is called 'scoping'.

### 3.2 Purpose of the consultation

The Department of Infrastructure (DFI) is consulting on changes to the Environmental Impact Regulations, as a consequence of a new European Union Directive on EIA (2014/52/EU). The new Directive is intended to simplify the rules for assessing the potential effects of projects on the environment. If adopted, the new Regulations will be enshrined in the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Some of the key changes to the EIA Regulations are:

- Reducing administrative burdens and processes streamlined through a joint/coordinated procedure when a development also requires an assessment under the Habitats/Wild Birds Directive;
- The environmental factors to be considered in the assessment have been refined and broadened to reflect emerging challenges that are important to the EU;
- Strengthening of the screening procedure through new information requirements and a revision of the selection criteria;
- The information to be contained in an Environmental Statement has been revised and clarified to improve their quality and content;
- Environmental Statement are to be prepared by competent experts and Councils are to have access to sufficient expertise to examine and assess the statements
- The grounds for planning permission decisions must be clear and reasons for determinations and decisions must be provided and shared with the public. Councils must demonstrate their objectivity to avoid conflicts of interest;
- Proportionate monitoring will be required for developments which appear to have significant negative effects on the environment. Existing monitoring arrangements may be used to avoid duplication of monitoring and unnecessary costs;
- Penalties may be introduced for breaches of the requirements of the Directive.

3.3 The consultation sets out 14 questions around the proposed changes to the EIA Regulations. It is recommended that Belfast City Council responds to these questions as set out at Appendix 1.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The proposed requirements for the Council to have access to expert advice to inform the EIA process and to ensure monitoring of developments that are likely to have significant effects, may have financial resources for the Council.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None identified.



**4.0 References**

**4.1 The consultation can be viewed in full at the following web link:**

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-planning-environmental-impact-assessment-regulations-northern-ireland-2017>.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to submit the response to the Environmental Impact Regulations Consultation to the Department for Infrastructure, as set out in Appendix one. (Copy available on Modern.gov).

**Supplementary Waste Storage Guidelines for Houses and Apartments in Belfast**

The Committee noted the contents of the report regarding supplementary waste storage guidance for houses and apartments in Belfast which had been referred to the Committee by the People and Communities Committee on 10th January.

**Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at Ormeau Embankment**

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Communities which related to the proposed extinguishment of a Public Rights of Way at a pathway at rear of Ravenhill Reach to Ormeau Embankment.

**Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at Cairns Street**

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Communities which related to the confirmation of extinguishment of a Public Rights of Way at Cairns Street.

**Miscellaneous Items**

**Restricted Item**

**The information contained in the following report is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

(Councillor Dorrian had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

**Section 76 Developer Contribution - Update**

The Development Engagement Manger provided an update regarding the development of a Framework for planning agreements and securing developer contributions.

He advised that the Framework would be comprised of two distinct parts. The first part would set out the Council's legal and policy basis for planning agreements, strategic alignment, infrastructure, viability and monitoring arrangements covering the operational aspects of the policy. The second part would provide detailed information on the types of obligations which might be required and under what circumstances. It would provide the methodologies which should be applied for ascertaining appropriate contribution levels, given the specific context of an application.

He advised that the Framework was intended to provide the development industry with the certainty required in relation to this area of planning and that an initial scoping exercise for this project had been produced which identified, in agreement with officers, seven cities to use as comparators in finalising a local approach to planning agreements.

The Committee noted the contents of the report, in particular:

- the Executive Summary produced by Three Dragons (Appendix 1);
- the forward work programme (Appendix 2) ; and
- the Department for Infrastructure Development Management Practice Note 21 – Planning Agreement (Appendix 3).

**Withdrawn Items**

The Committee noted that applications LA04/2016/2235/F - 98 Sandhurst Drive, Stranmillis - 2 storey rear extension Elevation changes and LA04/2016/1347/F - 16-18 Glen Road, Castlereagh - Demolition of existing building and erection of 8 apartments comprising of 2 blocks of 4 apartments with associated car parking and landscaping had been withdrawn from the agenda.

(Councillor Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point)

**Planning Applications**

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE  
POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)**

**(Reconsidered Item) LA04/2015/1102/F - 42 Strathmore Park South - Sub  
division of a dwelling to form a pair of semi-detached houses (retrospective)**

(Councillor Jones took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 17th January when it had originally been considered).

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(Before the meeting, the Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received from the applicant citing exceptional circumstances. He advised that the applicant had already made a presentation at the Committee Meeting on 17th January. The Committee agreed not to receive the second deputation).

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th December, given the issues which had been raised regarding the character of the area, car parking, and the size of the proposal, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The Committee had agreed also that appropriate conditions be included within the report for consideration by the Committee in February, so that the option to grant approval to the proposal could be considered.

The case officer outlined the contents of the report and informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, additional information had been received from the agent objecting to the recommendation to refuse the application. He suggested that all forward looking policies pointed towards an increase in the number and choice of dwellings needed in Belfast, the elevated gardens were due to the lie of the land, the applicant had never experienced privacy problems, the ownership proposal was not supported by any known planning policies and that the family needed to maintain flexibility.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

The case officer advised that if the Committee were inclined to approve the application, draft conditions were outlined in the report, including one in relation to the ownership of the dwellings by a Section 76 agreement and a planning agreement. He highlighted that an additional occupancy planning condition to restrict the occupancy of both dwellings to the same family ownership also be included, as follows: "The occupation of dwelling number 42a, as indicated on drawing 03, shall be limited to direct family Members of the occupants of dwelling 42. A direct family member should be a spouse, parent, or sibling, son or daughter, and should include any dependents of that person or a widow or a widower of such a person, in the interests of residential amenity." He advised that it was recommended that delegated authority also be given to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise planning conditions.

The case officer advised that the recommendation remained that the application should be refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposal was contrary to Policy QD 1 of Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments and Policy LC 1 of the Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7: Safeguarding the Character of Established Areas in that it would, if permitted, result in unacceptable damage to the local character and environmental quality of the established residential area, by reason of additional in-curtilage parking, a second new access and subdivision of the curtilage resulting

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in a plot size which would be out of character with the pattern of development in the area and would set an undesirable precedent; and

2. The proposal was contrary to Policy QD 1 of Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments in that the proposed development would, if permitted, result in an adverse impact on residential amenity of prospective occupants by way of inter-overlooking between the properties into and out of the resulting houses at the rear.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Armitage  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application, and delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise planning conditions, to include the proposed additional occupancy condition, as outlined by the Case Officer.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Magee,  
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application, and delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise planning conditions, without the additional occupancy condition.

On a vote by show of hands three Members voted for the amendment and five against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Armitage and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson was put to the meeting, with five Members voting for the proposal and none against and it was declared carried.

(Councillor Hussey entered the meeting at this point)

**(Reconsidered Item) LA04/2016/1419/F - Provision of additional 307 space temporary car park with associated access roads, lighting and fencing at Black's Road Park and Ride junction**

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Hutchinson and Jones took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 17th December when it had originally been considered).

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillor Hutchinson had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

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The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th December, it had deferred consideration of the application to enable the applicant, the Department for Infrastructure, to respond formally to the issues which had been raised, to ensure connectivity for the future in line with the Local Development Plan.

The case officer advised that the Planning Service had written to Transport NI on 20th December, 2016.

He summarised the reply from Transport NI regarding its exploration of the possibility of improving connectivity between Black's Road Park and Ride and advised that Transport NI was not willing to enter into a Section 76 Agreement or provide a financial contribution towards upgrading Black's Path.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/1789/F - 7-9 Arthur Street, 20-32 Chichester Street and existing building at 34-36 Chichester Street - Demolition of existing building at 34-36 Chichester Street and erection of new 8 storey mixed use development incorporating retail and office ground floor, and 1st-7th floor offices with associated external plant**

(Councillor Garrett had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th November, 2016 it had resolved to approve the application subject to an Agreement under Section 76 of the Planning Act. However, it had been brought to the Planning Service's attention that a number of residential addresses in the adjacent Victoria Square Apartment complex had not received neighbour notification of the proposal, and thus were not given the appropriate opportunity to view the proposal and make comment. Therefore, the Committee was requested to consider the application afresh.

The Development Engagement Manager outlined the contents of the proposal and highlighted the additional condition regarding a construction management plan to address issues of noise, dust and vibration during the construction phase.

He informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, additional information had been received from the residents, which raised the following points:

- the date for the Neighbour Notification was after the committee report date of 7th February;
- the developer relied on the planning history to justify the proposal;
- residents had no recollection of being notified on the previous 2011 application;
- residents addresses were incorrect on the Council's database;
- the above complaint had not been responded to;
- requested that address points for 2011 application be cross referenced to the address points which currently appear on the portal for the Apartments at Victoria Square Residences;

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- the applicant should not benefit from a previous permission;
- lack of Community Consultation and the failure to conduct community consultation was unlawful;
- communication issues with the agent;
- height adds one storey to previous approval and was contrary to BMAP;
- the roof plant and screening;
- drawing 15067-DL(PL) 402 shows the Victoria Square Penthouse level to be higher than the roof level of the proposed building. This conflicts with a drawing in the Design and Access Statement;
- the distances between the buildings. Distances between the office building and apartment balconies;
- the agent had misunderstood residents' concerns and had only considered noise from the 6th floor terrace and not overlooking;
- overshadowing and loss of light;
- suggested a deferral on the basis that the architects had not addressed their concerns and if the application was not deferred and permission was granted then the following restrictions should be imposed:
  - the height to be in line with BMAP and proximity to the perimeter of the site;
  - location, size, opaqueness and number of windows;
  - noise and nuisance associated with construction / hours of construction; and
  - hours of operation for the office use.
- The Regional Development policy and other policies encouraged residential development in the City and that commercial development would compromise this and residential approvals.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

He also highlighted that the Urban Design Consultant had outlined support of the scheme and the conservation officer had no objection.

The Committee received representations from Mr. B. MacDonald, acting on behalf of the residents of Victoria Square. He outlined a range of objections to the proposal which related to flaws and systemic failures in the planning process, flaws in the pre-application consultation as residents were not in attendance. He suggested that there had been no engagement with residents following the consultation event, therefore the Council had been misinformed (paragraph 3.4). He outlined further issues in that the residents had not received a reply from a query that had been sent to the architects and neighbour notifications had not been received. He suggested that there were fictitious addresses in the computer system for neighbour notification, a lack of reply to correspondence, and questioned why the addendum planning report had been published without residents' concerns being received. He also suggested that there were material objections to the height, massing, loss of light, loss of privacy, glazing concerns, the building needed to be

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lowered and set back, and that the residents were concerned about the potential uses of the terrace and amplified music would cause disturbance.

The Committee received representations from Mr. M. Burns, Lead Designer, Todds Architects, acting on behalf of the agent and Mr. R. Calvert, applicant, Orby Investment. Mr. Burns outlined a range of issues in support of the application which included the previous extant approval, the design review of the previous approval, the refinement, amendments, and improvements of the quality of the design to reduce the impact on the adjoining properties such as the reduction in storeys in places, sit-back of storeys, removal of the car park, reduction in glazing, and addition of vertical fins. He suggested that they had complied with all the requirements of the Planning Application Notice which included Community Consultation requirements and explained the process that had been undertaken.

Mr. Burns answered a range of questions from the Committee regarding the use of the roof terrace, proposed plant and overlooking.

The Committee received further representation from Mr. MacDonald in response to factual inaccuracies which he believed had arisen during the oral representation by the applicant. He suggested that the cross sectional drawings did not reflect the same buildings and levels of the proposal. He suggested that the potential for parties on the terrace until 11.00pm was unacceptable, there should be a restriction on amplified music, and the issue of overshadowing was also a concern.

The Development Engagement Manager clarified that the technical drawing illustrated in the presentation was the accurate drawing which had been considered by the case officer in the report.

The Committee received further representation from Mr. Burns in response to Mr. MacDonald's statement. He suggested that significant analysis had been undertaken regarding the sun path and that this had been submitted to the Planning Department.

During discussion Members raised the issue of the legal obligations of the planning process, clarification on the neighbour notification process and the timescales of the re-consultation.

The City Solicitor reminded the Committee that the relevant papers and written submissions that were made regarding the application had been circulated to the Committee for consideration before the Committee meeting.

He advised that the applicant had complied with the legal obligations that were pertinent to the community consultation of the pre-application process.

In relation to the neighbour notification issue which had been raised by the objector, he informed the Committee that the Council had accepted that the neighbours' notification in relation to the current application had not taken place before the previous Committee. He reminded the Committee that the application had been referred to the Committee for a re-hearing and that the Committee was not encumbered by the previous

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decision that had been taken. He asked Members to bear that in mind, in terms of the decision making.

He advised the Committee that the objectors' comments in relation to the addendum report needed to be balanced against the fact that the Committee had all of the material objections and representations in front of them. He advised that the Committee was not bound by any recommendation made by the case officer and had in the past departed from the planning officer's recommendation.

In relation to the effect of this proposed development, in relation to the building which the objectors had an interest, he advised that it was up to the Committee to decide, in terms of balance, whether or not this proposed development, together with the mitigations and conditions imposed, allowed these developments to co-exist with one another, side by side.

The Committee also sought clarification on the glazing of the building, potential conditions for the outside space, restrictions of amplified music on the terrace, and the possibility of a management plan and section 76 agreement.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Mullan,  
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegate power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee agrees also to the additional condition that there will be no amplified music on the terrace, at any time, and delegates power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of all the conditions.

On a vote by show of hands eight Members voted for the proposal and none against and it was declared carried.

The Committee also noted that the Planning Department would convey the importance of community consultation and the difficulties which may arise with neighbour notifications to future applicants.

**(Meeting adjourned for 10 minutes at this point)**



**LA04/2016/1691/F - Belfast Rapid Transit Hub and Engineering Works with garage, workshops, spray booth and stores on ground and mezzanine floor; associated staff facilities (toilets, lockers and canteen on ground, mezzanine and first floor; ancillary office accommodation on first and second floor (three floors in total), bus wash, security office, bus staff parking and other ancillary development.**

(Councillor Mullan had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The Committee considered a proposed application.

It was reported that the Council was awaiting a final response from a statutory consultee, Shared Environmental Services, however, the application could be referred back to Committee if any material concerns were to be raised by the consultee.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

(Councillor Mullan returned to the Committee table at this point)

**LA04/2016/2621/F - Units 9, 13 and 10 Connswater Retail Park - Amalgamation and change of use of units 9 and 13 to facilitate mixed retailing. New shop fronts and re cladding of units 9, 13 and 10 and all associated site works**

The case officer outlined the main aspects of the application.

It was reported that the site was located within Connswater Retail Park in East Belfast, and comprised of three empty retail warehouse units constructed from brick with sheet metal cladding and roofing.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**Z/2014/0557/F – Shore Road Playing Fields, Shore Road- New 3G pitch with floodlighting, dugouts, fencing and 200 seater stand previously approved pitches to be altered slightly and associated car parking**

The case officer apprised the Committee of the proposal for the construction of a 3G pitch, dugouts, fencing, 200 seater stand and reconfiguration of previously approved 5 a-side pitches.

The case officer pointed out that there was an error in the published title of the application which should read "*Shore Road Playing Fields*" instead of "*Grove Playing Fields*."

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council partially owned the land.

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The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/2639/LBC - Belfast City Hall - Minor internal alterations**

The Committee considered a proposal for listed building consent for internal operations to Belfast City Hall to include the provision of toilet facilities for disabled persons within the existing ground floor male toilets. Works would include the removal and placement of stud walling in the east entrance foyer.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

The Committee also noted that access to public amenities and signage for partially sighted people be considered as additional informatives of Council Planning Applications.

**LA04/2016/1038/F - Site at Sydenham Road bounded by Cuming Road and Hamilton Road - Pre Delivery Inspection Centre including smart repair centre, wheel tyre storage area and mezzanine floor, valeting bays, parking and associated site works**

The case officer outlined the proposed planning application located at Sydenham Road within the harbour area.

She advised that there was relevant planning history on the site under application Z/2007/2018/F granted in 2008, and highlighted that although this permission had expired in 2013 it remained a material consideration.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/2553/F - 96 Sandy Row - External alterations and extension to existing building to create 2 one bedroom apartments on upper floors with retail on ground floor**

The case officer outlined the main aspects of the application for the alteration and extension of the existing building to provide 2 one bedroom apartments to the upper floors and retention of existing retail unit for use as drop in centre.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had partly funded the project.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

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**LA04/2015/0539/F - Belvoir Park Hospital Site - Variation of Condition 6 of outline planning permission Y/2009/0462/O regarding phasing of restoration of the listed and unlisted buildings and occupation of the residential units**

The case officer outlined an application which sought to vary condition 6 of approval Y/2009/0462/O to state: None of the residential units in any phase hereby approved shall be occupied until the works to restore the listed and retained building(s) within that phase have been completed in accordance with the plans approved under Y/2009/0461/F or Y/2014/0401/F relevant to the phase in question and written confirmation had been obtained from the Council (Amended Description).

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, additional information had been received from the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) regarding the additional phases and redistribution of works to historic buildings. It suggested that the proposal did not appear to be in accordance with previous plans and raised concerns that the report did not refer to amended site plans and that there was no official response from Historic Environment Division on the portal. The correspondence also requested information on what investigations had been undertaken to ensure compliance with PPS23 – Enabling Development prior to an opinion to approve and suggested that the application should be refused and a new application lodged to clearly state changes to the plans and condition 6.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack. She highlighted that the application proposed to insert a reference number (recent Phase 2 Approval Y/2014/0401/F) to condition 6 and that no other changes had been proposed.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2015/1561/F - 3G pitch with flood-lighting, hurling wall, boundary fence with netting, reconstruction of terracing, 2 new dug-outs and resurfacing of the existing carpark at St Pauls GAC, 98 Shaws Road**

(Councillors Dorrian and Hussey had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th January, it had granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and had agreed also to delegate power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

However, the case officer advised that the Committee was requested to consider the application afresh as two objections had been received which had raised the following issues:

- Height of the boundary fence – detrimental to health;
- Impact of the proposed fence on sunlight;
- Adversely impact the value of properties; and
- Inconvenience to residents outweighs any benefits to spectators.

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The case officer stated that it was considered that the height of the close boarded fence on top of the retaining wall would not be overly dominant or adversely impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties. Whilst the proposed netting would be of a significant height it would allow light to penetrate through and given the orientation of the dwellings overshadowing from the proposed netting would not occur.

He informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the consultation response had been received from the Environmental Health Service which approved of the conditions and informatives as set out in the report.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and agreed also to delegate power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

**Z/2013/1399/F- Lands bounded by Stockmans Crescent and Kennedy Way - Proposed residential development comprising of 8 two storey semi-detached dwellings, 1 detached dwelling and six apartments in one three storey block along with associated site works and sewer diversion**

The case officer apprised the Committee of the above-mentioned proposal.

He advised that the site was located within Belfast's development limits and zoned for housing (WR 04/09) in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, 2015.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

(Councillor Hussey returned to the Committee table at this point)

**LA04/2016/1100/F- Lands at former Lisnasharragh High School, Tudor Drive Proposed erection of 24 semi-detached dwellings and 6 complex-needs bungalows**

The case officer outlined the proposed planning application.

The planning history at this location related to an expired approval in 2010 (Y/2010/0168/O) for a residential development.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/2500/F - Belmont Bowling Club, 6A Kincora Avenue - Upgrade to bowling green walls, paths, flood lighting, PA system, irrigation compound with glass reinforced plastic kiosk**

The Committee considered a proposal for an upgrade to a bowling green including works to walls, paths, flood lighting, PA system and the installation of an irrigation compound with a glass reinforced plastic kiosk.

The case officer pointed out that there was an error in the published referral route of the application which should read "*Council has an Interest in the project*" instead of "*Request by Belfast City Council Member*".

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an interest in the proposal.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/1351/F - Land between 14 Shore Road and 1-23 Loughview Terrace - Proposed open space development, providing a design green space including new planting and interpretative artwork accessible in part by pedestrian surfaces**

The case officer outlined the proposed planning application.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an interest in the proposal.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2015/1488/F- 122 Blacks Road - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of proposed 6 apartments with associated parking and amenity space**

(Councillor Garrett, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The case officer outlined the main aspects of the application.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

(Councillor Garrett returned to the Committee table at this point)

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**LA04/2016/1491/F - 54-60 Whitewell Road - Demolition of existing properties and proposed new-build residential development of 10 social housing apartments**

The Committee considered a proposal for the demolition of vacant units and the proposed development of 10 social housing apartments with parking and associated site works.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/1864/F - Former community centre opposite 8 Moyard Park - Residential development comprising 6 dwellings, car parking, landscaping and associated site works**

The case officer outlined the main aspects of the application and informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, additional information had been received from Springfield Park Residents' Association in regards to the inaccuracy of the description of the building as a 'community centre', the Covenant restrictions of the building, and the community not being informed of the owners intention to sell. It also outlined objections in regards to designation of the land and highlighted a letter from the Housing Executive from 1991 which indicated that the green area be retained as recreational area for the community. The correspondence also suggested that the proposal would cause overdevelopment of the area, deprive the community of their recreation area and that there would be high risk of creating a hotspot for anti-social behaviour.

The case officer advised that further correspondence had also been received from the Agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, regarding the need for housing in the area, a social value clause within the construction contract, the consistency of the design, and proposed maintenance of dwellings. It suggested that the proposal did not prejudice any ambition the local community might have for an enhanced open space and did not encroach on the adjacent open space.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

After discussion, given the issues which had been raised regarding the number of objections received and the zoning of the land, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The Committee agreed also that the Housing Executive Estates Department be contacted to clarify the zoning of the site.

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**LA04/2016/2479/F - Cliftonville Playing Fields, Cliftonville Road - Installation of ballstop net to the pitch boundary adjacent Glenard Brook; and  
LA04/2016/2476/F - Cliftonville Playing Fields, Cliftonville Road - Installation of ballstop net to the pitch boundary adjacent Old Park Avenue**

The Committee agreed to deal with the aforementioned items together.

The case officer outlined the proposed planning applications for ballstops at Cliftonville Playing Fields.

The Committee granted approval to both of the applications, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's reports.

Chairperson



## Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 20th February, 2017

### MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell;  
The High Sheriff, Alderman Haire; and  
Councillors Copeland, Graham, Hargey  
Johnston, Mullan and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;  
Ms. C. Toolan, Managing Director, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd;  
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

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

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

#### **RESTRICTED ITEM**

**The information contained in the following report is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

#### **Quarter 3 Performance Report 2016**

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance during October, November and December 2016, and an overview of the year to date performance for the financial year 2016/2017.

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She outlined that Quarter 3 had been a very busy period for the company, with a wide variety of events having been held in the venues.

The Members were advised that by the end of Quarter 3 BWUH Ltd. had delivered 25 conferences, generating 41,742 delegate days, which had delivered an economic impact of £17.2million for Belfast.

The Managing Director reported that BWUH Ltd. had attended IBTM, the leading global event for the meetings, conferences, events and business travel industry. She advised the Committee that it had been a success and that a number of potential bookings were being planned.

She also advised the Committee that BWUH Ltd. would be attending a number of sales shows in Quarter 4, including the C&IT Corporate Forum in London, which provided access to sixty corporate buyers, and Confex in Olympia London, which attracted 7,500 agents, associations and buyers.

The Committee was advised that a client showcase would take place on 16th March, 2017. The Members were advised that BWUH Ltd. was targeting key local, ROI and UK professional conference organisers, associations and corporate clients. She outlined that unique city experiences would be facilitated for out-of-state clients and that it would conclude with a themed evening of food and entertainment showcasing the Belfast Waterfront.

In relation to customer feedback, the Committee was advised mystery shoppers were brought in from November 2016 and that the company was working to develop a satisfaction benchmark with the team. The Managing Director reported that anecdotal feedback from clients was generally positive but that there was an ongoing problem with the heating system in the Belfast Waterfront and that this had resulted in some negative feedback from clients in November. The Committee was advised that the Energy Management System had been raised as a defect in the new building project.

With regards to staff training and development, the Members noted that the Culture and Leadership Programme had commenced in Quarter 4, with 18 people taking part and that the first session had been successful.

The Managing Director advised the Committee that the Liquor Licensing legislation for Northern Ireland had been highlighted as a risk in that it was having a financial impact on Client Event Earnings. She reminded the Members that this was a particular challenge in relation to the BBC Good Food event and that if a solution could not be found that repeat custom from the event in 2018 was unlikely.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the catering at events in the Ulster Hall, the Managing Director advised the Committee that a review would take place. She also confirmed to the Committee that if a client was to encounter a problem with the catering in either venue, that the costs would be recouped from the franchised caterer.

In response to a further Member's question relating to the value of Sterling against the Euro since the outcome of the Brexit referendum, and whether European companies

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could book the Belfast Waterfront in Euro, the Managing Director confirmed that while they did not take bookings in Euro at present, they would examine it as an option.

In relation to employability opportunities for apprentices and work experience placements, the Managing Director confirmed to the Members that they were working with Employability South and Employment East and they were pleased that the work programmes could be customised to the company's needs.

After discussion, the Committee noted the update on the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.'s performance during Quarter 3 of 2016 and of the year to date performance for the financial year 2016/2017.

Chairperson

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