

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 Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017 at 6.00 pm., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council (Pages 1 - 10)
5. Official Announcements
6. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 11 - 44)
7. People and Communities Committee (Pages 45 - 94)

a) Traffic Regulation Order (Northern Ireland) 2017

As required under Phase IV of the Council's Alleygating Scheme, to pass a resolution to make a Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Order (Northern Ireland) 2017 for each of North, South, East and West Belfast, which will come into effect on 2nd May, 2017, prohibiting the use by vehicles and pedestrians of those streets in North, South, East and West Belfast, as set out within the minute of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 4th April, 2017.

8. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 95 - 144)
9. Licensing Committee (Pages 145 - 158)
10. Planning Committee (Pages 159 - 174)
11. Notices of Motion

a) Mental Health and Addiction Support Services

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara,
Seconded by Councillor McCabe,

"In recognition of the devastation that many families face when losing loved ones due to drug and alcohol misuse, or the impact of suicide within our communities, we recognise the need for a City wide response to support our communities in dealing with these issues.

As the Council has committed, through the Belfast Agenda, to 'design and deliver an integrated city programme to address health inequalities, including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation', we agree to establish a forum with our strategic and community partners to address the critical issues of mental health and drug and alcohol addiction support services.

Through this discussion, we aim to identify current levels of provision across drug, alcohol, and mental health services through a mapping exercise, begin a strategic discussion about a dual diagnosis model and to develop a cohesive and co-ordinated strategy on positive mental health for our citizens.”

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Affordable Warmth Scheme

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council notes that the Affordable Warmth Scheme, administered by the Council, worth almost £1.2m a year, which offers low-income households grants, has been slashed in half due to the failure to agree a budget.

The Council agrees that this fund is vital to improve energy efficiency through measures such as loft insulation and replacement boilers.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to Department for Communities to express its deep concern about these cuts and calls upon that Department to fully restore the fund.”

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

c) Use of Bus Lanes by Taxis

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

“This Council supports the decision by the Department for Infrastructure to introduce the twelve week trial period permitting all taxis to use the Belfast Rapid Transit bus lanes and agrees to write to the Department for Infrastructure a letter of support to extend the duration of the trial period for an additional six months and expand the trial to include all Belfast bus lanes.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the
City Growth and Regeneration Committee)**

d) Stained Glass Window - 321 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company

Proposed by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

“This Council acknowledges the vital role which 321 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, has provided to our City and its citizens over a number of decades. Their sacrifice and dedication has saved many lives and helped preserve our city from those who would physically destroy it. The Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to acknowledge their dedication and service and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)**

e) Housing Provision in Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Collins,
Seconded by Councillor McCabe,

"This Council recognises the severe shortage in social housing across the City, and the detrimental effect which this is having on many citizens in Belfast. It also notes the important work that Belfast housing rights organisations and campaigners have done to highlight this problem in some of the most socially deprived areas of Belfast, by working with the homeless and people in poor housing to identify solutions to the housing crisis. One such solution is to maximise the use of available land right across the City for new build social housing.

In particular, the Council notes the concentration of housing stress in North Belfast and the ongoing campaign by residents and housing rights activists to ensure that a number of sites in North Belfast reach their full social housing potential. The Council calls for a reconsideration of the zoning of redevelopment sites to reflect the necessity to build social housing in North Belfast, in order to deliver a real reprieve to the acute housing crisis in this part of the City."

**(To be referred without discussion to the
Planning Committee)**

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



Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd April, 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 Browne, Convery, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Bell, Boyle, Bunting, 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, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, 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 Alderman R. Patterson and Councillors Beattie, Carson, McAteer and Reynolds.

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 1st March be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 3rd April, 2017**

Official Announcements

Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Awards

The Lord Mayor congratulated Queen's University and the Council on attaining first and second place, respectively, in the Public Sector category at the recent Northern Ireland Equality and Diversity Awards ceremony and congratulated also Legal-Island, the organiser, on the success of the event.

Expression of Sympathy

The Council noted that the Lord Mayor had written recently to the Director of the Irish Coast Guard expressing his deepest condolences on the loss on 14th March of the crew of the R116 helicopter and paying tribute to all those who had been involved in the recovery operation.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 24th March be approved and adopted.

Notice of Motion – Youth Services – Responses from the Department of Education and the Education Authority

At the request of several Members, the Council agreed that the All-Party deputation from the Council should meet with the Chief Executive of the Education Authority as a matter of urgency and that, in the meantime, the Council's Chief Executive request from him information on the extent of the funding cuts which had now been implemented across the City, including the number of workers who had been affected, and arrange for that information to be forwarded to all Members.

City Hall Exhibition – Operational Arrangements

At the request of Councillor Milne, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee outlining the measures which would be put in place to prevent a recurrence of an issue which had arisen when an email had erroneously described demonstrations taking place at the City Hall on International Women's Day.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing additions, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th March were approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 3rd April, 2017**

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 7th March be approved and adopted.

Mr. Sam Skimin

The Council's attention was drawn to the fact that Mr. Sam Skimin, the former Head of Cleansing Services, had retired from the Council in the previous month.

Several Members paid tribute to Mr. Skimin for the significant contribution which he had made during his twenty-three years in the Council and wished him well in his retirement.

Food Waste

At the request of several Members, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee providing further information on the publicity campaign associated with the implementation of the new food waste policy.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 7th March were approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 8th March be approved and adopted.

**International Relations Update
and Programme 2017/2018**

The Lord Mayor referred to his recent visit to Washington over the St. Patrick's Day period and thanked all those who had contributed to its success, including Mr. Dan Lawton, the US Consul General in Belfast, and the staff of the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington.

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External Market Application

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing clarification on whether the requirement to obtain permission from the Council to operate a market or car boot sale extended to organisations such as sports clubs and churches which were using their own premises, on any discussions which had taken place around this issue previously and on the cost of obtaining permission to operate a market or car boot sale generally.

Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation

At the request of a number of Members, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee to enable further consideration to be given to a proposal which had been made by Councillor Craig that the Department for Infrastructure should be much more ambitious regarding the network and the timeframes.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing additions, the minutes of the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 8th March were approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Copeland and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 15th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the special meeting and the monthly meeting of the Planning Committee of 14th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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Scheme of Delegation – Draft Amendments

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee outlining the procedure governing the temporary listing of buildings in urgent cases, as alluded to under paragraph 3.9.2 (l) of the proposed revisions to the Scheme of Delegation.

Planning Appeals Notified

At the request of Councillor Attwood, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee setting out the measures which the Council could put in place to ensure that it could defend robustly decisions taken by that Committee, which had been subject to appeal.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing additions, the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee of 14th March were approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Belfast Intensive Family Support Service

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

"This Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by the Belfast Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS), being operated by Extern, in supporting families who have a range of long standing, entrenched and complex problems, ranging from self-harm, to addiction to suicide.

The Council expresses concern that funding for IFSS is under threat, with the loss of 47 jobs and the possible closure of a vital service for some of the most disadvantaged children and families in Belfast.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to the Health and Social Care Board and the Department of Health to seek an immediate resolution of this funding crisis."

At the request of the proposer, the Council agreed to the replacement of the words "is under threat" within the second paragraph of the motion with the words "has been withdrawn" and to the deletion of the word "possible" within that paragraph also.

The motion, as amended, was seconded by Councillor McCusker, who sought and was granted approval by the Council to amend the motion further to provide for an urgent meeting to be sought with the Health and Social Care Board to determine what alternative

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measures were being planned to support those young people and their families who would be affected by the closure of the Belfast Intensive Family Support Service.

After discussion, the motion, as amended, was put to the Council and passed.

Credit Unions

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

“This Council notes the importance of credit unions, as member-owned financial co-operatives, democratically controlled by their members, which ensure people in local communities have access to credit at affordable rates.

The Council notes that there are 158 credit unions in Northern Ireland, with 93 as part of the Irish League of Credit Unions and 42 with the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions.

The Council notes that there is an opportunity, in line with its commitment to develop co-operatives, to develop a partnership/joint venture with credit unions to deliver projects with social value including but not limited to social and affordable housing.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to engage with the credit union movement and investigate innovative models for project delivery.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Safe Access to Healthcare

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

“This Council recognises that all individuals have the right to healthcare, which includes that healthcare should be physically accessible and within safe reach for all sections of the population. People should not face fear and intimidation when accessing healthcare services.

Therefore, the Council condemns all harassment and intimidation taking place outside facilities in Belfast and Northern Ireland that offer reproductive healthcare, including attempts to physically block access to facilities, verbal intimidation, and the filming and recording of staff and clients entering and leaving the building.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston.

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On a recorded vote, fifty Members voted for the motion and none against, with three 'no votes', and it was declared carried.

For (50)	Against (0)	No Vote (3)
<p>The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Bell, 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, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Newton, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.</p>		<p>Alderman Convery; and Councillors Boyle and Mullan.</p>

Stained Glass Window – LGBT Community

Suspension of Standing Orders

Prior to the motion being proposed and seconded, it was

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the Council agrees to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to permit the motion on a Stained Glass Window for the LGBT Community to be debated by the Council rather than being referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

On a recorded vote, forty-two Members voted for the proposal and eleven against. As the number of Members voting in favour of the proposal was less than 80% of those present and voting, as set out within Standing Order 25, the proposal was lost.

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For (42)	Against (11)	No Vote (0)
<p>The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); Aldermen Browne, Convery, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Bell, Boyle, Clarke, Collins, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.</p>	<p>The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey and Newton.</p>	

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell) proposed:

“This Council acknowledges the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our City, whose visibility creates a more welcoming and vibrant City. Recognising that one of the Council’s primary aims is to make the environment of the City Hall more balanced, inclusive and reflective of all of the citizens of the City, the Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of our LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McAllister.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Andersonstown Leisure Centre

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

“This Council recognises the upcoming redevelopment of Andersonstown Leisure Centre and the positive potential which this investment could bring to the City.

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It also notes concerns which have been raised by Trade Union representatives about jobs during and after the redevelopment. The Council is opposed to any job losses as part of the redevelopment. It also believes that any displacement process should be done transparently and equitably, to ensure that current staff are treated fairly during this process.

Finally, the Council considers it crucial that all current staff should be afforded the right to return to Andersonstown Leisure Centre after the redevelopment and under their current employment contracts, with no changes to their terms and conditions, if they so wish to. The Council calls upon GLL to work with Council staff, elected representatives and the relevant Trade Unions to ensure that action is taken which leads to the best possible deal for leisure workers."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Communities Committee.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st April, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also Attended: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell).

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. G. Wright, Head of Facilities Management;
Mr. M. McBride, Assistant Director of Finance
and Resources;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Corr and McCabe.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Extension of Sunday Trading Hours – Request to Address the Committee

The Committee agreed to accede to a request from the area organiser of the Union of Shop, Distributors and Allied Workers (Usdaw) to address the Committee at its meeting on 19th May in relation to the consultation on the extension of Sunday trading hours. It was agreed also that representatives of the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce be invited to address the Committee.

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

Proposed Re-Structuring of the Fleet Management Unit

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report on the proposed re-structuring of the Fleet Management Unit for a period of 1 month.

Proposed Reorganisation of the Security Unit

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed reorganisation of the Security Unit. The report detailed the following four options and the associated financial implications:

- (1) adopt the management proposals which would see the Council's Security staff from the Duncrue site be redeployed to the city centre at no cost;
- (2) keep all existing structures and rotas exactly as at present and cover the new Exhibition and 9 Adelaide building using the contracted supplier at an additional cost of £76,400;
- (3) create a minimum of 4 additional posts to provide the cover at the new locations while continuing all existing locations as at present at an additional cost of £134,000; or
- (4) split the 8 staff currently allocated to the Duncrue site, and continue to cover the site with 4 Council staff on a lone working basis and use the 4 staff freed up to cover the Exhibition and 9 Adelaide at a cost of £67,000.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt option 3.

Andersonstown Mobilisation – Update

The Committee was reminded that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the undernoted notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council recognises the upcoming redevelopment of Andersonstown Leisure Centre and the positive potential which this investment could bring to the City.

It also notes concerns which have been raised by Trade Union representatives about jobs during and after the redevelopment. The Council is opposed to any job losses as part of the redevelopment. It also believes that any displacement process should be done transparently and equitably, to ensure that current staff are treated fairly during this process.

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Finally, the Council considers it crucial that all current staff should be afforded the right to return to Andersonstown Leisure Centre after the redevelopment and under their current employment contracts, with no changes to their terms and conditions, if they so wish to. The Council calls upon GLL to work with Council staff, elected representatives and the relevant Trade Unions to ensure that action is taken which leads to the best possible deal for leisure workers."

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the consideration of the Committee an update report on the current position and indicated that a full report on the mobilisation plan would be submitted to the Committee in May. In addition, the Committee was advised that a request for a deputation had been received from the Unite and NIPSA Unions to address the Members in relation to this issue.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the issues raised in the report and that a full report on the mobilisation plan would be submitted to the meeting in May;
- noted that a mobilisation workshop for the West Area Working Group and Budget Panel Members was being arranged in advance of the May meeting, in order for GLL to present its overall mobilisation plan, including its engagements with sports clubs and users; and
- agreed to receive a deputation from the Unite and NIPSA unions at its May meeting.

Redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Site

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph building and the ongoing work on an Inner North West Masterplan.

The Committee noted:

- the progress to date with the former Belfast Telegraph site and the intention to submit a planning application later this year; and
- that work was underway to develop an Inner North West Masterplan and that Members would be engaged directly within the coming weeks before a draft report was submitted to the Committee.

Organisational Design - Update

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

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration an update report in relation to the Council's Organisational Design Model and after discussion the Committee:

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- noted that a final report on the organisational structures would be submitted to the May meeting of the Committee;
- agreed to commence a recruitment process for a Strategic Director of the new Place and Economy Department, followed by a recruitment exercise for the Operational/Assistant Directors for Planning and Building Control; Economic Development; and City Regeneration;
- agreed that the process in moving functions and badging staff to the newly created department could begin;
- agreed that a timely and targeted executive search approach to the recruitment of the Strategic Director post commence immediately to ensure a strong and competent field for the post; and
- that the selection panel for the recruitment of the Strategic Director of Place and Economy reflect a fair balance in terms of community background and gender and that it comprises the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees), another elected Member from a political party not represented by the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), the Chief Executive and a Council director.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion re Stained Glass Window – LGBT Community

The Committee was reminded that the Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, had referred the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor McAllister, to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council acknowledges the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our City, whose visibility creates a more welcoming and vibrant City. Recognising that one of the Council’s primary aims is to make the environment of the City Hall more balanced, inclusive and reflective of all of the citizens of the City, the Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of our LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall.”

The Democratic Services Manager submitted for the Committees consideration a report which outlined the previous decisions and the current position in relation to four other motions regarding the installation of stained glass windows in the City Hall which had been considered within the previous 4 years.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the motion to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall be referred initially to the Party Leaders.

Governance

Council Constitution

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report in relation to amendments to the Council's constitution to enable them to be considered at Party briefings.

Belfast Agenda

Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland; (Economy 2030) – Draft Consultation Response

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a response to the consultation document from the Department for the Economy on the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland – ‘Economy 2030’. The strategy sets out a vision for Northern Ireland as a ‘globally competitive economy that works for everyone’.**
- 1.2 The draft response builds on the Council’s position in relation to the draft Programme for Government 2016-2021, which was approved in January 2017, as well as the pre-consultation ‘Call for Evidence on Refocusing the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy’ which was approved in October 2016. In compiling the response, feedback has been gathered from officers across Council and members of the Economic Growth Forum.**
- 1.3 There is clear alignment between the regional ambitions in the draft Industrial Strategy and the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan. The Belfast Agenda’s social and economic ambitions for growth are that by 2035:**
 - Belfast will be home to an additional 70,000 new residents**
 - Our urban economy will support 50,000 more jobs**
 - There will be a 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods**
 - Every young person leaving school will have a destination that fulfils their potential**
- 1.4 The consultation closes on 25 April 2017 and the document, equality screening and summary of evidence are available**

online at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/industrial-strategy> An online questionnaire is also available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/industrial-strategy-for-northern-ireland/>.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

Consider and approve the draft response to the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Economy 2030).

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Industrial Strategy is a high level strategy that sets out the main policy commitment for growing the economy and creating jobs. In general, the proposals are in line with commitments contained within the Belfast Agenda and are likely to contribute positively towards growing the economy in an inclusive manner.

3.2 The draft Strategy provides contextual information about the economy, its recent performance, and how the region compares to other similar economies. It sets out the vision for 2030 for Northern Ireland to be ‘a *globally competitive economy that works for everyone*’.

3.3 It contains commitment to outcomes-based accountability, in line with the Programme for Government. It also includes a number of headline milestones, namely:

- **By 2021: 50,000 new jobs will be created; 18,000 economically inactive people will be helped back to work; Northern Ireland will be the number 1 FDI destination outside London**
- **By 2025: 380,000 qualifications at level 3 and above will be awarded; the value of sales outside of Northern Ireland will increase by 80%; the amount of spend by tourists from outside NI will be doubled**
- **By 2030: private sector output will grow by 35%, creating 80,000 new jobs; NI will be in top 3 most competitive small advanced economies; 80,000 jobs will be created in the knowledge economy; annual R&D spend will be increased to £1.5billion and the level of wellbeing in UK will remain the highest among all regions.**

- 3.4 To deliver improvements in regional competitiveness, five Pillars for Growth have been identified. The pillars are interdependent and actions will be required across each pillar to achieve the vision. The five pillars are:**
- Accelerating innovation and research**
 - Enhancing education, skills and employability**
 - Driving inclusive, sustainable growth**
 - Succeeding in global markets**
 - Building the best economic infrastructure.**
- 3.5 There are some areas where the strategy lacks detail. For example, there is little reference to engaging with local government and there is limited information about the resources, particularly finances, which will be used to deliver the ambitions. Many of the activities within the five pillars require support or are led by government departments other than the Department for the Economy (DfE), yet this is identified as a DfE strategy. It is not clear that there is a mechanism for securing buy-in and support from other government departments and external agencies – let alone making any financial contribution to the delivery of the priority areas.**
- 3.6 The draft response from Belfast City Council seeks to reaffirm the importance of Belfast to the wider region and includes the high level issues which Belfast City Council views as critical for growing the economy, as reflected in the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan. It emphasises the critical importance of inclusive growth in delivering the strategy and highlights the need to put in place resources to measure the impact of interventions. Finally, the response outlines the value of a place-based approach to maximise the benefits for the whole region. It also contains several of the key ‘asks’ which the Council has developed over recent months and emphasises the opportunities to co-design and deliver in partnership with government and other partners.**
- 3.7 In compiling the response, feedback has been gathered from across Council services, as well as the core participants of the Economic Growth Forum. The draft response attached as Appendix 1. In summary, the response highlights:**
- The absence of a place-based approach to growth and limited reference to engagement for local authorities with no reference to new forms of government/decision-making (particularly City Growth Deals). A key element of the draft UK Industrial**

Strategy is that it seeks to reinforce and strengthen the role of cities and localities in driving growth through a strong devolution agenda, yet there is no reference to this in the draft Northern Ireland Strategy.

- The draft strategy references ‘inclusive growth’ but it is not clear what is meant by this or how this is being defined. One of the key economic challenges in Belfast is economic inactivity and the social exclusion that this creates for residents within the city. It is important to set an agreed set of outcomes to measure inclusive growth – and then to establish a range of interventions that can help deliver an inclusive growth. This will require the involvement of a number of agencies – and will require flexible approaches that are different to current practice.
- There are limited references to the role of investment in infrastructure to support economic growth and connectivity. This can include investment in office space to accommodate projected future jobs growth in key growth sectors as well as investment in roads, rail and transport to improve access and connectivity. A key emphasis of the Local Development Plan that the Council is consulting on is to ensure that there is sufficient level of infrastructure to help deliver economic growth in the city and beyond.
- Recognition that the public sector will continue to play a vital role in delivering services and helping to enable private sector growth. The role of procurement and Social Value Procurement should be recognised but the strategy does not make reference to these.
- Harnessing innovation to drive growth – there are limited references to the use of information technology and better data management to support future economic growth. The SMART Cities approach is both scalable and transferable to other cities and towns across the region and should be included in the new strategy.
- While the ‘Succeeding in Global Environments’ pillar recognises the role of attracting business tourism and conferencing, there is also a key opportunity to emphasise the importance of attracting and retaining international students which is a key priority for both universities
- While we support the focus on priority sectors, we consider that there are also emerging opportunities in the clean tech sector (supported by our investment the North Foreshore) as well as the tourism/hospitality sector. The latter currently employs more than 17,000 people in Belfast and, with future investment planned

in new leisure facilities as well as hotel accommodation, there are opportunities to grow the sector significantly

- While the Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy is still being developed, tourism is a key economic and employment sector for Northern Ireland. Tourism has a vital role in driving inclusive growth and creating employment opportunities and is predicted to be a major employment generator in the coming years
- The role of academia and the education sector more generally should be strengthened; the regional centres of excellence are driven by university/industry collaboration.

- 3.8 The Strategy retains its focus on regionally balanced growth. This is likely to be at odds with its focus on those growth sectors which are likely to be attracted to urban environments. Belfast is the top global destination for financial technology investments and Europe's leading destination for software development and technology support investment (fDi Markets 2015). It is important to build on these assets: if they are successful, they can bring benefit across the region.
- 3.9 Good economic growth must be sustainable and Belfast still needs to grow to compete. It is essential that the whole region continues to benefit from the impetus provided by a competitive and successful city that can attract talent and investment, generate regional employment and opportunity and drive forward further growth and clustering in the key sectors. The need for a place-based approach to growth and recognition of the role of cities in driving growth is imperative; yet it is totally absent from the draft strategy. The Council response draws attention to the draft UK Industrial Strategy which is also currently out for public consultation and places a strong emphasis on the further devolution of powers to cities as being essential to economic growth.
- 3.10 It is worth noting that unlike the previous Economic Strategy for Northern Ireland, this is a document from Department for the Economy, not the NI Executive. This is reflected in the relatively narrow view of the economic growth agenda – for example, no consideration of how to use business rates/incentives to support economic growth, limited information on the importance of infrastructure investment.
- 3.11 The consultation document asks a series of questions and the draft response to the questions, along with the opening narrative which highlights the key issues for the Council, is included in Appendix 1.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no direct financial or resource considerations for the Council.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality or good relations implications for the Council. The draft Industrial Strategy has been subject to an equality screening exercise.”

The Committee approved the draft consultation response, subject to more emphasis being included in the response, which is located [here](#) on the Council’s website, on the need to secure a City Deal; and a reference to the need for “Free Ports”.

Belfast Economy and Social Policy

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus collaborative efforts on economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:

- Our city is home to an additional 70,000 new residents
- Our urban economy supports 50,000 more jobs
- There will be a 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential

1.2 In an increasingly competitive global environment, Belfast must emphasise its distinct competitive advantage if it is to continue to compete and successfully attract FDI, and tourists to the city as well as encouraging more businesses to start and support those existing businesses to grow in the city. Members have emphasised the importance of continuing to attract and support FDI to Belfast and the Council has been delivering on the Tourism Strategy Action Plan, developing a ‘Go to Market’ plan and working with city stakeholders in the development of the International Relations Framework which seeks to promote the profile of Belfast internationally as a place to visit, live and invest.

1.3 To focus our efforts on growing a sustainable, inclusive economy a number of targets have also been set for 2021

along with key programmes of work (see draft Belfast Agenda). This report focuses primarily on the issue of city deals and economic and social progress in the context of Brexit. It needs to be noted that significant other pieces of work sit alongside this paper on job creation, skills development, liveability and neighbourhood regeneration.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the current programme of work underway which seeks to position Belfast as a competitive place and key attractor for people to visit, live, learn and invest;**
- (ii) consider and agree the proposed next steps as set out at paragraph 3.3.4 below.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

3.1.1 The Council is increasing its ambition around positioning the city to attract international investment from developers, FDI and institutional investment and the recent success at MIPIM 2017, along with the International relations Framework 2016-2021 provide fresh impetus to consider how the City can begin to embed and sustain this collaborative and outward-focused approach to deliver on the City ambitions in the Belfast Agenda.

3.1.2 Central to promoting growth and positioning the city is the Council's role in supporting and adding value to the work of key city partners in their efforts to increase the number of international students in the city, grow tourism investment and support more Foreign Direct Investment as well as helping local businesses to become more active in international export markets.

3.1.3 In the context of the Belfast Agenda, Members have already commissioned or agreed a range of work, currently underway, to drive forward growth and position the city in a time of increasing economic and political flux. Some examples include:

- International Relations Framework – including the development of sister city relationships with Boston, Nashville and Shenyang.**
- Strengthening private sector relationships as demonstrated by the recent success of MIPIM and the**

strong public/private sector approach adopted (e.g. in access of 70 private sector representatives as part of the Belfast delegation and £240,000 private finance secured).

- Refocus the Belfast-Dublin MOU to enhance collaboration on economic, tourism, education & investment programmes.
- Exploring the development of a mutually beneficial city-to-city programme of co-operation and collaboration between Belfast and the City of London, in the interests of galvanising and stimulating both cities as growth engines, particularly as the UK exits the European Union.
- Launch of the Belfast-London Business Network in February 2017 with over 150 delegates attending providing a platform to pitch 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.
- The Council is developing a detailed programme of support, interventions and incentives to support business start-ups, existing businesses wishing to grow and foreign owned businesses that might consider Belfast as an investment location with a view to establishing a bespoke 'City Investment Advice/Concierge Service that supports and enhances the work of key city partners.
- Belfast part of the 100 Resilient Cities Network and is in the process of appointing a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) whose role is to work with city stakeholders to develop a Resilience Strategy which will seek to address the inter-related issues of economic, social & environmental resilience.
- The development of a City Growth Deal for the Belfast City-Region is moving into a detailed feasibility study and financial modelling phase. This work will focus not only on the delivery of key city infrastructure priorities but also how the principles of inclusive growth can be integrated within a city growth deal so that communities across the city benefit. Intensive engagement will take place with both elected Members and city and regional partners to define what is possible.

3.1.4 There is no doubt that there has been a growing recognition and support for the Council's leadership role in promoting economic growth and positioning the city on a regional,

national and international basis as evidenced in the engagement and feedback received on the Belfast Agenda.

Brexit

- 3.1.5** Given the changing and uncertain global economic environment, there is a growing focus in other city-regions across the UK on the importance of place and ensuring that local government have the necessary financial levers and powers to support inclusive economic growth. There has been a reaffirmed commitment to devolution and introduction of growth deals covering all parts of GB but not Northern Ireland.
- 3.1.6** It will be important that the Council and Members continue to proactively seek to ensure that such similar freedoms, including a Growth Deal, are at the heart of any negotiations around Brexit and form part of the specific asks being developed by political parties and government. Whilst the detailed feasibility study will help to identify potential opportunities and evidence the financial and social benefits around a growth deal and further double devolution asks, it will be critical that this is supported by a strong political strategy/manifesto which gives focus and intent to the Councils engagement with relevant stakeholders and influencers.
- 3.1.7** Correspondence recently received from NILGA, attached at Appendix 2, outlines some the approaches being taken by other councils in relation to forward planning around Brexit including, for example, the commissioning of joint research pieces and entering into MOU type arrangements with cross-border council colleagues. NILGA is strongly advocating that an evidence-based and collegiate approach is taken to further strengthening NI council's position and in securing the best fiscal, legislative and policy outcomes associated with Brexit. Whilst it will be important that we continue to work with our local government colleagues including NILGA, it will be critical that we build upon the current momentum of growth and position Belfast to maximise the potential opportunities which may emerge around Brexit.
- 3.1.8** It is also important that the social implications of Brexit are understood and that plans to ensure 'inclusive growth' take account of these impacts.

3.2 Next steps – creating an integrated and strategic approach and establishing ‘quick wins’

3.2.1 Given the changing economic, political and social landscape, it is vital that the Council continues to show leadership in driving inclusive economic growth. As detailed in this report, Members have led and commissioned a number of significant interventions which have successfully raised the profile of the city and started the process of effective advocacy around securing the powers and resources needed to deliver inclusive growth for the city-region.

3.2.2 There is now a need to ensure we draw these strands together to ensure that they are mutually reinforcing and underpinned by clear evidence and messaging so that Members can effectively influence on behalf of the city and that this leadership is visible to city stakeholders. Key linked strategic pieces which will have the continued leadership and oversight of the committee moving forward will be:

- City-region growth deal
- Place positioning;
- International relations framework;
- City Resilience
- An inclusive growth model

3.2.3 In terms of city marketing, it is important that we seek to build upon the momentum created at MIPIM and the successful relationships Members have built with the private sector to position and market Belfast at a time of flux when businesses are making location decisions. We must also consolidate and build upon to the relationships which Members have built with our surrounding councils and with other cities such as London and Dublin in line with our growth strategy.

3.2.4 In order to take this forward Members are asked to consider and agree the following:

- (i) Members to lead and fully engage in the next stage of feasibility work on the city growth deal proposition including the specific deliverables (asks) and funding model.
- (ii) Develop and implement a political lobbying strategy which gives focus and intent to the Council’s engagement with relevant stakeholders and influencers; and seeks to inform the negotiations and forward planning around Brexit.
- (iii) Develop a strong and strategic marketing piece, in partnership with the private sector including

developers, agents and investors, anchor institutions and the public to position Belfast in a post Brexit context as a place to live, visit and invest

- (iv) Engage and potentially co-commission specific research pieces with the City of London and Dublin City Council & Dublin Chamber of Trade and Commerce to identify opportunities of mutual benefit including e.g. joint marketing, trade and investment.

3.2.5 A cross-discipline project team of council officers is being established, chaired by the Chief Executive, to assist Members in bringing forward these strands of work in an integrated way so as to further enhance the city leadership role of Members and regular updates will be brought to the Committee

3.3 Financial & Resource Implications

Within budget estimates for 2017/18.

3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Inclusive growth is intended to reduce inequalities and improve relations in the city.”

The Committee:

- (1) noted the current programme of work underway which sought to position Belfast as a competitive place and key attractor for people to visit, live, learn and invest;
- (2) agreed the proposed next steps as set out in the report; and
- (3) agreed an independent review on the impact of Brexit on the City and best positioning strategy for future success.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Peace IV – Update on Capital Projects under Theme 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, 2016, had agreed to act as a partner for the delivery of the Shankill’s Women’s Centre and Black Mountain Shared Space project which were being submitted for Peace IV funding under theme 3.1 Shared Space and Services. Both the projects had now been advised by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) that their relevant proposal had now been progressed to Stage 2 of the Peace IV funding process following successful completion at Stage 1.

The Committee was advised that 13 applications out of 33 had been successful in reaching Stage 2 under this call for funding. It included one other Belfast based project

– the Greater Whitewell Community Surgery - for a project at the former Ballygoland Primary School. It was pointed out that the theme remained extremely competitive and the total funding for the shortlisted bids was approximately £90m and there was only £45m available under the theme. Therefore, the Committee was asked to note that any progression to Stage 2 was not a guarantee of funding and that no grant had been allocated yet to any projects, including the Shankill Women’s Centre and the Blackmountain Shared Space project.

Noted.

Leisure Transformation Programme – Assets Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

Programme level – Planning

- **note that planning was approved by the Planning Committee on Tuesday 11th April for the two new major leisure facilities at Brook and Robinson and the planning application for Andersonstown was submitted at the end of March**

Specific projects

Members are asked to –

Brook

- **note the updates as outlined at 3.4 in respect of the planned pop-up gym facility in part of the main sports hall at Brook and on the basis of the information provided to consider if they wish this to progress. In considering this Members are asked to note that officers investigated the potential of using space upstairs but that this is not feasible; that discussions have taken place with all affected groups and that all groups/activities can continue to be supported in the remaining part of the Hall or can be re-arranged**

elsewhere and the Centre can continue to act as an evacuation point if this is required.

Andersonstown –

- note the feedback from the additional Stage 2 - consultation exercise which was undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application.
- note after lengthy discussion Members agreed not to relook at the agreed facilities mix given the implications on the cost, design, planning and programme but requested officers to bring back an options paper to a future meeting which would consider all options available for securing the required additional resources for a moveable floor to be included within the existing proposal including details in respect of discussions with the DfC regarding community benefit monies and the mobilisation budget. Members are asked to note this is currently under development with an update to be brought in due course.
- note that a mobilisation workshop will be scheduled in advance of May SP&R.

3.0 Main report

Programme level – Planning

- 3.1 Planning approval for the redevelopment of the £20m Robinson and the £15m Brook was approved by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 11th April. This represents a significant step forward for the overall programme with works due to commence on site in the summer. Planning for Andersonstown was submitted at the end of March following a further round of consultation on the proposed changes to the centre (see 3.7). Members are asked to note that any changes to the design could have an impact on planning which in term will impact the overall programme**

Project level

Brook – Pop-up gym facility

- 3.2 Members have expressed their desire to start construction on the new Andersonstown as soon as possible and subject to a positive planning decision it is envisaged that construction will commence on the new facility in August 2017. As part of the business continuity planning for Andersonstown Members endorsed a proposal in February that a pop up gym**

facility would be set up in part of the main hall at Brook. It is proposed that this will be a 50station gym and would use the existing equipment from Andersonstown when this closed. The rationale for this was to ensure continuity of provision for existing Andersonstown gym members and also to help attract new members to the centre thereby providing a platform from which to market the new centre prior to its opening in 2019.

3.3 Since this time a number of concerns have been expressed including the impact on

- **groups who currently use the main hall**
- **use of the centre as an Emergency Rest Centre**
- **current car parking as the car park is already very busy at peak times**

Members at a special West AWG on the 6th April therefore asked officers to consider these issues and also to check if it was feasible for the area upstairs which is currently used for changing facilities to be used as a gym area.

3.4 Officers have now investigated the concerns raised and Members are asked to note –

- **Feasibility of using the upstairs space as gym space – Officers along with GLL undertook a site visit on 10 April to ascertain the feasibility of using this space rather than the main hall. This space is currently used as changing provision and would require additional works to be undertaken in order to facilitate their use for gym equipment including the removal of internal walls and additional electrical works. On the basis of the site visit it should be noted that these areas would only accommodate up to ten additional items of gym equipment (vs 50 stations downstairs). Given the additional works that would be required it is questionable if this would represent value for money. It would also not represent a quality customer experience. In light of this officers advice is that it is not feasible for the area to be turned into additional gym facilities.**
- **Impact on groups currently using the Hall – There are currently a range of groups who have regular bookings in the Hall including a Surestart and a judo club together with some regular activities including ballet/dance and 5-a-side. GLL have met with all potentially affected user groups over the past week.**

In relation to each affected group the current position is outlined below

- Judo club – can continue to be accommodated in the remaining space in the main hall. It should also be noted that the new judo mats in Andersonstown are scheduled to be transferred to Brook which means the Club will no longer have to bring their own mats which the Club have welcomed
 - Surestart – the day to day activities can continue to be accommodated in the remaining space in the main hall. They have highlighted that there are number of larger seasonal events that they deliver including a summer sports day & Christmas celebration event. Officers and GLL are looking at alternative venues for hosting these e.g. other centres or local schools. Any costs associated with this will be come out of the mobilisation budget
 - Ballet/dance activities – this will require some minor equipment which can be accommodated in the fit out from the mobilisation budget if agreed
 - 5-a-side activities and community programme – it has been emphasised that there is still significant community space and the current 5-a-side bookings can be reprogrammed to the 3G pitch outside or to an alternative centre. Again any costs associated with this would be funded through the mobilisation monies.
 - All the groups had queries in relation to wall partitions and safeguarding. These have been addressed through the concept designs and a walkthrough with groups on the site. Members are therefore asked to note that all the groups affected can either continue to be accommodated if the gym proposal is taken forward and/or alternative provision will be secured for them. Any costs associated with this will be met from the mobilisation budget.
- Use as an Emergency Rest Centre – Members are asked to note that Brook has been opened once as an Emergency Rest Centre since the Council took it over under LGR. On this occasion there were no attendees to the centre. From an Emergency Planning perspective the Council's preferred option during emergency responses in the area is the Sally Gardens Community Centre. However the Emergency Planning Team has confirmed that they would still like to have the option of activating Brook if required. They have

been given an overview of the proposals and are content that this still allows for the centre to be used as a fall back option if required.

- Car parking – It has been noted that the current car parking at Brook is under pressure at peak times on 3G & grass pitches particularly in the evening and Saturday mornings. Members will be aware that additional car parking is being provided under the plans for the new centre however in the interim it is proposed that the situation is kept under review and if required further options will be brought back to Members in due course.

- 3.5 In light of the above Members are asked to consider if they wish to proceed with the proposed pop-up gym facility in the Main Hall at Brook

Andersonstown

- 3.6 Members are asked to note that the Planning Service recommended that additional consultation was undertaken in respect of Andersonstown before the submission of the planning application. This was to reflect the changes to the facilities mix and design following the initial Stage 2 consultation in October which were agreed by Committee in November 2016 (i.e. the exclusion of the sports hall, moveable floor in the pool, geo-dome over the pitch and the BMX track in order to increase in the size of the leisure waters)

- 3.7 2 further consultation sessions were therefore undertaken in early March together with an online survey. In total there were over 750 responses to the consultation and the key findings are summarised below –

- 96.5% expressed support for the redevelopment
- Most popular comments were as follows:
 - Supportive of design and excited about the project (188 responses)
 - Request for a movable floor to be included in the 25m pool (172 responses)

- 3.8 The exclusion of the movable floor element from the main pool has raised a number of concerns particularly from the local water polo clubs. This was considered at the special meeting of the West AWG on 6th April at which Cathal Brugha Swimming and Water Polo club put forward a case for the consideration of re-instating the moveable floor.

3.9 After lengthy discussion Members agreed not to relook at the agreed facilities mix given the implications on the cost, design, planning and programme but requested officers to bring back an options paper to a future meeting which would consider all options available for securing the required additional resources for a moveable floor to be included within the existing proposal including details in respect of discussions with the DfC regarding community benefit monies and the mobilisation budget. Members are asked to note this is currently under development with an update to be brought in due course.

3.10 Members are also asked to note that a mobilisation workshop on Andersonstown has been scheduled for May.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

Brook – the ‘pop-up gym’ facility if agreed will be funded out of the mobilisation monies. Any costs associated with displacement will also be funded from the mobilisation budget

Andersonstown – note that any changes to the design at this stage could compromise the overall programme and have a significant cost impact.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications.”

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the decision in relation to a pop up gym facility in part of the main hall at Brook be deferred to enable it to be considered again by the West Area Working Group.

Area Working Update

Minutes

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups as follows: South Area Working Group 20th March; North Area Working Group 29th March; East Area Working Group 6th April and West Area Working Group 6th April.

North Area Working Group

The Committee noted that the North Area Working Group, at its meeting on 29th March, had approved a minor change in scope in relation to NLIF2-17/NLIF072 Ballysillan Youth for Christ Project so that the funding could be used for new build

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equipment and to upgrade fixtures and fittings as additional funding for the project had been received under New Urban Villages.

East Area Working Group

The Committee noted that the East Area Working Group, at its meeting on 6th April, had approved a minor change in relation to ELIF2-14 – The Dock Titanic Quarter in respect of its location as the Group had been advised by Titanic Quarter that the proposed premises were no longer available.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (1) approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 below, through the Council's electronic procurement system; and
- (2) granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender, and allow extensions where 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
Supply of Mobile Video Screens for BCC annual events and possible one-off partner events	Donal Durkin	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a further 3 years
Supply of ancillary equipment for BCC annual events and one-off events	Donal Durkin	4 years
Supply of Production Management Services for the Council's annual events programme and possible one-off partner events	Donal Durkin	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a maximum of 4 years
Supply of PA Staging, Lighting, Audio Visual Equipment for the Council's annual events programme and possible one-off partner events	Donal Durkin	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a maximum of 4 years.
Maintenance and Repair of Grounds Maintenance Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a further 4 years.

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City Hall upgrade CCTV systems & cameras	Gerry Millar	3 months
Duncrue Complex replace existing heating boilers	Gerry Millar	3 months

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Measured Term Contract for repair & maintenance of fire and intruder alarms systems	Gerry Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place
Measured Term Contract for installation of new soft flooring	Gerry Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place

Equality and Good Relations

Draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity

The City Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues

1.1 To request approval of the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* for public consultation, including staffing resource.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* for consultation.
- Consider the staffing resource element of the policy i.e.: (i) staff member dedicated to the promotion of the Irish Language (currently included in the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*); or (ii) a staff member dedicated to the promotion of Linguistic Diversity (not currently included in the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*). Or (iii) an Irish Language Officer and a post covering wider language promotion (perhaps at a later date)
- Agree the outline consultation plan and next steps

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

The original Language Policy was adopted by Council in 2006. The Joint Diversity Group (of Party Group Leaders and the Historic Centenaries Working Group) agreed that it should be up-dated and refreshed in line with legal advice on the Council's compliance with all relevant legal obligations.

Denise Wheatley of Policy Arc consultants was commissioned in March 2013 to prepare a scoping paper, as she had experience of preparing the Equality Schemes for both *Foras na Gaeilge* and the Ulster-Scots Agency, she had also assisted Magherafelt District Council with the EQIA of their recent Irish Language Policy.

The opinion of Richard Gordon QC of Brick Court Chambers in London was sought since he had extensive experience in advising on human rights issues and his advice, including references to both local and international law, was submitted to the Joint Diversity Group at its meeting on 21 May 2013 along with a draft language policy.

Following discussion at the Joint Diversity Group, 18 October 2013, an enquiry was made to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) regarding Newry & Mourne Council's Language Policy. ECNI responded:

'We have commented that Newry & Mourne has a clear policy in place to promote the Irish Language and the Commission has provided advice, when requested, in relation to the implementation of the policy. In general we consider the language rights issue to be more a human rights issue than an equality issue although there is an intersection with employment and good relations aspects.'

ECNI also summarised their response to Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages:

'Our response had made the point that the notion that providing equality or protection for one group limits their availability for another is both unfounded in itself and acts to the detriment of all who seek to live in a society that is fair and equitable and should be avoided in the drafting of public policy.'

At that time no agreement was reached and the demands of Local Government Reform prioritised work streams in that area, consequently the 2006 Language Policy remained in place. In late 2016 a decision was made to revisit the 2006

Language Policy and following refreshed engagement with key stakeholders the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* is presented.

- 3.2 In developing the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* the Council was mindful of various legal positions including Counsel's opinion and International and domestic legal obligations and standards. The development was also informed by demands for minority languages and feedback from consultation.

Developments in linguistic diversity in central government laid out principles reflected in our draft policies, particularly in relation to:

- The Strategy to Enhance and Protect the Development of the Irish Language over the period 2015-2035
- The Strategy to Enhance and Develop the Ulster-Scots Language over the period 2015-2035

In 2016 the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure opened a public consultation on a *Sign Language Framework*, with the ECNI response providing important insight to the particular challenges the Framework was designed to address, including:

- A report into educational inequalities in Northern Ireland reported that whilst statistics show that attainment for disabled children generally is rising, deaf children's attainment is actually falling.
- Lack of provision could be met through the establishment of Deaf Cultural and Linguistic Centres in Belfast and Derry
- The lives of deaf people could be improved by addressing aspects of direct and indirect discrimination

Following on from recommendations made in the scoping report on the revision of the 2006 Language Policy the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* is a comprehensive strategic approach which will explore the connections between all different languages written and spoken in Belfast, whilst being mindful of our legal obligations with respect to Irish and Ulster-Scots. The key recommendation was to develop a framework, with three correlated policies:

- Irish Language Policy
- Ulster-Scots Language Policy
- Other Languages Policy

This approach is in line with the ECNI response to the Consultation by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure on *Proposals for an Irish Language Bill*, May 2015:

‘An important aspect of language policy is the interrelationship between individuals or groups that speak different languages. Any duty placed on public authorities should ensure that the development of provisions to protect and promote the language is viewed within the context of the duty to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations within the provision of public services. Public authorities should consider aspects of mutual understanding, co-operation, communication and partnership between different ‘language communities’, including engagement with relevant communities to seek to explore and take reasonable account of concerns or perceptions about the promotion of minority languages.’ (Para 11)

3.3 Key Issues

a. Framework

The draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* presented at Appendix 1 includes the *proposed Language Framework* and drafts of the three policies within it:

- Irish Language Policy
- Ulster-Scots Language Policy
- Other Languages Policy

b. Staff

Members are asked to consider the issue of a dedicated staff member. In line with our obligations to promote the Irish Language under Part III, Article 10 of the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages there is a dedicated staff resource in the draft *Irish Language Policy* (p.17 draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*). Under ‘Council staff, it states: ‘pending the outcome of the review by *Foras na Gaeilge*, appointment of an Irish Language Officer to promote Irish within the Council and in the Council area, with responsibility for the development of an action plan to ensure the promotion of Irish language can be effectively provided by Council, including awareness raising and language training’. The Irish Language Officer would develop two work streams, internal and external.

Internally focused work would be aimed at training staff in Irish and supporting staff in translations and providing services in Irish. The external work stream would provide support for Irish language groups in the city with training and support.

During the party briefings however there were a number of options discussed as follows:

- Staff Member dedicated to the promotion of the Irish Language Policy (as currently included in the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity and identified as a specifically required role by Irish Language groups)
- OR
- Staff Member dedicated to the promotion of Linguistic Diversity (not currently included in the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity)
- A combination of both of the above (i.e. 2 posts)

Based on the outline details provided below it is likely the post as presented in the draft policy (one Irish Language Officer) would be approved between PO1 and PO4 (salary of £29,323 and £39,177 from April 2017). A full assessment of the post would have to be undertaken and full economic cost to include employers NI contributions and pension included. Further details on the options are presented below:

Foras na Gaeilge opened consultation on 'The Irish Language Officers Scheme in Local Government in the North' in early March 2017. In reviewing the successes of previous schemes which supported officers, the consultation document notes: 'under the scheme recognition is given to the language throughout the councils by providing comprehensive information and services in Irish, and through a range of work which would not be done if it were not for the Irish language officers in the local councils'. The consultation document outlines four options, summarised below:

- a. Do nothing – and to have no funding scheme again aimed at councils in the north.
- b. Offer 50% of the employment costs for appointing Irish language officers for 3 years. Match funding could be offered to 3 successful councils under this choice.
- c. Provide support for councils to prepare an 'Irish language development strategy' through expert

consultation. All councils could be funded under this choice.

- d. A special fund aimed at councils in the north to provide relevant activities which would support Irish speaking and learning communities within their administrative areas. Applications from all councils could be catered for under this choice.

3.4

c. Consultation

Both the documents are presented in draft as a period of public consultation is required before they are finalised. The body of statute and case law relating to consultation is increasing with regard to the need to consult the public before final decisions are made.

When Council have approved the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*, and/or recommended any changes, the documents will be opened for a period of public consultation running from 26 May until 18 July 2017. The recent debates on the appropriate period of consultation are fully acknowledged and the extent of consultation already undertaken provides rationale for the eight week period recommended.

An outline plan of the consultation follows:

- Two public meetings on the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*
- Four targeted focus groups on each of the individual strands (i) Irish Language Policy; (ii) Ulster-Scots Language Policy; (iii) Two separate events for the Other Languages Policy a. New-comer communities; b. Deaf and partial hearing loss community.
- Questionnaire on Citizen Space
- Internal engagement with HR, staff and Trade Unions

The consultation document will reference how any changes in compliance related to the Irish Language Act may impact on planned implementation and the scope of the draft policy.

The following resources are required to support the consultation:

- Budget for catering / alternative formats/signers/translators at four meeting = £250 x 6 = £1500

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- **Staff resources: Support required re: Citizen Space questionnaire design and analysis, communications and engagement of consultation, development of action plan (internal).**
- **External consultant for co-facilitation: 5 days @ £450 per day = £2250**

TOTAL = £3750

3.5 Timeline for next steps

It is planned to issue the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* for an 8-week public consultation from May 2017. The table below outlines the next steps:

23 May – 18 July 17	8 week public consultation - events and questionnaire open
10 August 17	Budget panel: draft SP&R report
11 August 17	Final reports issued for SP&R
18 August 17	SP&R debate report
4 Sep 17	Council ratify SP& R decision
Sep 17 – Aug 18	Delivery of Year One Action Plan
August 18	Monitoring Report on Delivery of Year One Action Plan. Costed year 2 Action Plan to SP&R.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

The following resources are required to support the consultation:

- **Budget for catering / alternative formats/signers/translators at six meetings/focus groups = £250 x 6 = £1500**
- **Staff resources: Support required re: Citizen Space questionnaire design and analysis, communications and engagement of consultation, development of action plan (internal).**
- **External consultant for co-facilitation: 5 days @ £450 per day = £2250**

TOTAL = £3750

Following the period of public consultation final documents and a costed one year action plan will be presented.

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Dependent on the scope of the action plan the financial resource implications may be significant.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

A draft comprehensive screening of the policy has been undertaken and will form part of the public consultation. This screening report is in draft form which will enable us to engage more fully with key stakeholders, internal and external, during that process.”

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees to approve the draft Policy on linguistic diversity for consultation with option (i), a staff member dedicated to the promotion of the Irish Language, included in the draft Policy but that the consultation included a question regarding consideration of this and any additional resource.

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

**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 11th April and specifically agreed the following:

Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme

- to adopt the recommendation to grant the use of delegated authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to approve applications under the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme; and approve the recommendation that Reverend Bill Shaw be appointed to the role of independent assessor on the Programme Review panel.

Review of the St. Patrick’s Day Small Grants Programme

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees to reject the decision of the Partnership to approve the proposal to review the current approach to St. Patrick’s Day celebration grants and undertake a consultation and screening process with current grant recipients and adopt - in principle, option 3, subject to further information being provided in due course; and accordingly agrees

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to adopt option 1, that is, to do nothing and continue with the grants scheme in its current format.

On a vote by show of hands twelve members voted for the amendment and four against and it was declared carried.

Belfast Pride Parade – Employee Participation

The Committee was reminded that Belfast Pride was a major city event which was embraced by many people who support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) community. It attracted audiences of up to 50,000 people each summer. The Council had, through the Community Festivals Fund which was match funded by the Department for Communities, regularly supported the Belfast Pride festival.

The Council's Equality and Diversity Network championed and steered the Council's strategy on matters relating to diversity and equality in both service delivery and employment and in particular fed into the development of the Council's diversity action plans. An LGB&T sub-group of the Equality and Diversity Network was tasked with assisting the Council to address key issues around promoting positive attitudes, respect and inclusion of people from the LGB&T community relating to the Council's workforce and customers. It was also tasked with the revision and development of the Council's LGB&T action plan.

In addition, as part of the LGB&T action plan, an LGB&T employee network was established last year. It brought together, across all areas of the Council, individuals who identify as belonging to the LGB&T community, along with their allies and other supporters, to meet and share ideas and also to feed into the LGB&T action plan. Both the sub-group and the employee network were keen that, as part of the LGB&T action plan going forward, Council employees participate in the annual Belfast Pride Parade, either by entering a walking group or a float, that is, using a Council vehicle along with an accompanying walking group.

The Committee agreed to interested employees participating annually in the Belfast Pride Parade, with initial attendance at the 2017 event being held on Saturday 5th August.

Operational Issues

**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 13th April.

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

The Committee noted the minutes of the Active Belfast Board of 21st March.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the
North Foreshore Steering Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group of 20th March.

**Business in the Community's Responsible
Business Awards June 2017**

The Committee was reminded that, every year, the Business in the Community's Responsible Business Awards captured inspiring stories of businesses as a positive force for change and told them to a local, national and international audience. The awards event was open to companies of any size, sector and scale and the entries were rigorously assessed by a select judging panel. The Committee was advised that, following the success of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which was considered as an exemplar within the public sector, the Council had submitted an application to the "Wellbeing at Work" category of the awards. The Council had been successfully shortlisted in this category, together with the Bank of Ireland, Queen's University, Belfast Lagan Construction, BT, Coca Cola and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. The winner of the award would be announced at a gala awards ceremony in the Belfast Waterfront on 1st June, 2017.

The Committee approved the attendance of three officers at the Business in the Community's Responsible Business Awards 2017 and noted that the event was being held on 1st June, at the same time the Annual Council would be held at which the new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee would be appointed, and therefore agreed not to nominate any Councillors to attend on this occasion.

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

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

April 2017 Function Applications						
Name Of Organization	Function Date	Function Description	Criteria Met	Charge	Hospitality Offered	Civic Hq Recommendation
Conway Education Centre	20 June 17	Reception to present adult students with qualifications/ certificates gained and formal thank you to volunteers	Yes – c & d	No charge (charity)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality

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April 2017 Function Applications						
NI Kids Ltd	7 July 17	Awards Ceremony to recognize organization and special individuals who put families and young children at the heart of this business.	Yes –b & c	£300	No	Allow Charge £300 No hospitality
Walkway Community Association	25 August 17	A showcase of Walkway projects and reception to celebrate their volunteers	Yes – a, c & d	No charge (community)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality
OMNI (Malayalis NI)	3 September 17	A Cultural dinner and entertainment programme to celebrate PONNONAM.	Yes – d	No charge (community)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality
Marks & Spencer's 50 th Anniversary Ball	30 September 17	Commemorate 50 years of trading in NI with 200 staff and suppliers.	Yes – a & c	£825	No	Allow £825 No hospitality
Belfast Hospital School	19 October 17	Night of Celebration and Prize giving for pupils who attend Belfast Hospital School; children who are unable to attend school because of physical or mental illness.	Yes – c	No charge (charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee (£2 per head)	Allow No charge Hospitality Tea/ Coffee/ Biscuits reception £2 per head
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	23 November 17	Belfast Trust has staff of 22,000 and the Chairman's Awards recognize, award and celebrate the achievements of some of these staff.	Yes –c	£300.00	No	Allow £300 No hospitality

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April 2017 Function Applications						
NOW Group Graduation	28 February 18	Annual Graduation ceremony and celebration for trainees supported by NOW Group – not for profit organization providing support to people with barriers to employment & learning.	Yes – c & d	No charge (charity)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers, Sandford and McCoubrey; and
Councillors Austin, Copeland, Corr Johnston, Heading,
Jones, Magennis, McCabe, Newton, O'Neill, Nicholl and
Milne.

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

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Beattie.

Minutes

The minutes of 7th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Request to Present to Committee – Belfast Healthy Cities

The Committee agreed to invite representatives of the Belfast Healthy Cities to present at a future meeting of the Committee on its work programme in relation to the 2016 World Health Organisation International Cities Conference.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Minutes of 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 6th March, the following key issues had been considered:

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- update on the Memorial Inspection Programme;
- update on the trial use of shoring to address subsidence at Roselawn Cemetery;
- charity nomination for the distribution of money received from the recycling of metals; and
- update on the rising cost of funerals, to include a benchmarking exercise in regard to the provision of municipal funerals.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 6th April 2017.

Age Friendly Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Members on proposals to evaluate the Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2014-2017 and to produce an improvement plan for the period 2018-2021.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note and agree;

- **Proposals to evaluate the Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2014-2017 and produce an improvement plan for the period 2018 -2021.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 In March 2012 the Lord Mayor signed a declaration formally committing Belfast to become a World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly City. This effectively committed the City to a continuous improvement cycle, involving older people, of planning, implementation and evaluation to better meet the needs of an ageing population. A three year action plan and progress report must be submitted to WHO for review at the start and end of the process respectively.

3.2 On 1st June 2012 it was agreed that the Belfast Strategic Partnership should provide the Governing Structure for the Age-friendly approach and support the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership in a collaborative approach to deliver Age-friendly Belfast.

- 3.3 Since then the Council has played a leading role within the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) and specifically its Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) to honour that commitment. In March 2014 the Age-friendly Belfast plan 2014-2017 was launched and subsequently implemented with the vision Belfast will be a city where older people live life to the full.
- 3.4 The Council's All Party Reference Group on Older People, currently chaired by Councillor Sonia Copeland, directs and oversees this work programme on behalf of the council.
- 3.5 As the Action Plan has reached the end of its implementation period, HASP must now complete an evaluation and submit a progress report to WHO together with a new three year action plan.

Process and timeline for evaluation of progress and development of new 3 year Age-friendly Belfast plan

3.6 March to June 2017

1. Review progress of action plan, indicator data and official statistics.
2. Carry out a survey of a wide range of older people to seek their views on the city and identify priorities for action. The survey will be carried out online using Citizen Space and face to face using trained facilitators. Difficult to reach older people will be specifically targeted including carers, disabled, and those from the LGBT and BME communities.

3.7 June 2017

Use the information collected to update the age friendly baseline and hold a workshop with service providers, older people and other partners to identify and discuss priorities and actions required over the period of the next three year plan.

This will also allow a one year interim plan to be agreed to maintain progress.

3.8 July - October 2017

The Draft Age-friendly Belfast plan 2018-2021 will be developed alongside additional consultation and commitments from Stakeholders. The Draft Action Plan will be presented to the All Party Reference Group on Older People and Committee for consideration and comment. It will

also be presented at the Age Friendly Belfast conference in October and will go out for a 12 week public consultation.

3.9 January 2018

Following public consultation a final draft of The Age-friendly Belfast 2018-2021 will be presented to BSP for approval before being submitted to the World Health Organisation together with the updated Age-friendly Belfast baseline and the evaluation report on the 2014- 2017 Year Plan. The evaluation report and final Action Plan will be reported to Committee at this time.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.10 All work will be carried out within existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.11 None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Youth Forum Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the main activities of Council’s Youth Forum (YF) and, in particular, present the YF report into young people’s views on poverty in Belfast.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to:

- Note the ongoing work programme for the BCC Youth Forum
- Consider and endorse the Youth Forum ‘It’s not a choice: Poverty in Belfast’ report including key findings and recommendations and
- Support the planned launch and related publicly on 10th May 2017.

3.0 Main Report

Youth Forum Recruitment

- 3.1** Young people on the BCC Youth Forum (YF) serve a 2 year term. In June the 2016-18 recruitment process was completed with over 100 young people applying and taking part in taster sessions and interviews in order to be selected as YF members. A total of 40 young people were selected to join the YF (4 young people per DEA). A successful celebration event with the Lord Mayor to mark the end of the previous term for the 2014-16 members and to welcome the new members and their families took place in Sept 2016.

Youth Forum Induction

- 3.2** Since September our new young people have been settling in and learning about their new role. During their induction from Sept-Dec 2016, they explored the following areas with BCC staff:

- Team building and getting to know each other;
- Meeting with young people from across the city to hear their issues and what they would like the YF to work on and bring forward to Council;
- Vision for next 2 years for the YF;
- ‘Rights in Action’: Using Human Rights to create change where you live;
- The powers of local and regional government;
- Community Planning & the Belfast Agenda;
- Council Structures and decision making ;
- How to engage effectively with Councillors and decision makers.

- 3.3** Young people also held their first full forum meeting in the Council Chamber and met with the Lord Mayor as part of their induction.

‘What you say matters’ Young People’s Conference

- 3.4** In 2015 our Youth Forum helped Children’s Law Centre to gather the views of 900 young people from NI on the changes needed to improve their lives. These views were turned into a report called ‘Our Lives in Our Words,’ which was presented to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN) in Geneva. In June 2016, based on the findings in the young people’s report, the UN Committee made recommendation to the NI Executive. Their recommendations

reflected the young people's report which highlighted a need for:

- Better mental health provision for young people;
- An end to discrimination against young people in community life and leisure experiences;
- An improved knowledge and understanding of Rights;
- Greater levels of meaningful participation from young people in decision making both at community and government level.

3.5 The YF wanted to bring young people together to discuss what each of the themes above meant to them and to hear from their peers what they would like the YF to bring forward to Council on their behalf and to shape their future campaign activity. To support this objection, they organised and ran a young people's conference in October 2016 called 'What you say matters.' The conference was organised in partnership with young people from the NI Youth Forum and the Children's Law Centre as the young people believed it would strengthen their voice and reach more young people. The conference, held in City Hall, was attended by over 100 young people. The entire event was youth led, workshops were held on the day around each theme and young people were asked to form questions on each for the panel discussion taking place that afternoon with key decision makers.

3.6 The decision makers who came to City Hall to take part were:

- Barry McElduff, MLA, Chair of the Education Committee
- ACC Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, PSNI
- Andrew Dawson, Head of Mental Health & Capacity Unit, Department of Health, NI.

3.7 Cllr Matt Garrett, Chair of People and Communities Committee opened the conference and welcomed all the young people to City Hall. The key issues emerging from the day were:

- Police stop and search powers;
- Inadequate mental health provision for young people under 18;
- Votes at 16/ Meaningful participation;
- Mental health issues caused by exam stress at school;
- Need for more 'youth-friendly' spaces for young people in their Belfast; and
- Inadequate sexual Health education.

3.8 Some early outcomes from the conference are:

- i. Health Minister, Michelle O'Neill MLA, invited a delegation of young people from the BCC YF, NIYF and CLC to have a private meeting with her to discuss concerns around young people and mental health provision.**
- ii. Barry McElduff, MLA, has invited a delegation from all 3 Forums to present evidence to the Education Committee in Stormont.**
- iii. All 3 Youth Forums have committed to continue our partnership working, particularly around a young people's mental health campaign.**

3.9 A full copy of the conference report is available for information.

Youth Forum Campaigns

3.10 At the end of November 16, the YF members attended a weekend residential in Corrymeela in Ballycastle to plan their work for the next 2 years. Young people voted to work on the following issues: Poverty in Belfast; Votes at 16 and Mental Health. As noted, these issues were selected based on direct engagement with wider groups of young people outside of the Forum. Since the residential, forum members have been meeting regularly to progress the work and have received 4 training sessions from the Participation and Practice of Rights Project (PPR) in advocacy and lobbying. This training included:

- Researching their 3 issues;**
- Building their campaign case: designing monitoring tools, gathering evidence;**
- Developing a campaign plan: setting timeframes, agreeing campaign protocols;**
- How to lobby effectively;**
- Using human rights indicators and benchmarks: setting targets for government.**

3.10 The YF's intend to launch their first campaign (Poverty) in May 2017. Their second campaign, Mental Health, will follow in September this year and our young people are running this campaign in partnership with young people from NI Youth Forum (NIYF) and Children's Law Centre (CLC).

YF meets Junior Minister

- 3.11 On 10th January 2017, a delegation of young people from our YF, NIYF & CLC met with Junior Minister, Megan Fearon, MLA. This meeting came as a result of the 'What you Say Matters' conference. The meeting was a great success for our young people, who got to ask the Minister questions relating to mental health provision on behalf of the young people who had attended the conference. In particular they asked:
- i. Why funding for mental health makes only 8% of the overall health budget?
 - ii. How does the Minister plan to ensure young people have a say in creating their mental health services?
 - iii. What are the plans to ensure under 18's have the same access to mental health services as adults?
 - iv. We also highlighted young people's wishes to see more community based mental health provision that is less clinical and includes more peer support.
- 3.12 The Minister was keen to hear young people's views and answered all questions. She also gave a commitment to meet the groups again in 6 months and to update young people on the progress made with the issues highlighted.

Belfast Agenda & Local Development Plan Consultations

- 3.13 Since January 2017 the YF has assisted the Community Planning and LDP teams to create youth friendly versions of both consultation documents. YF members will spend the month of March taking both consultations into their schools for young people to complete and feed into the wider process. The CYP unit staff team have also been conducting consultation exercises with more marginalised groups of young people including young people in the Juvenile Justice Centre and young people in care.

Ur City 2

- 3.14 The UrCity2 programme involves a linked city initiative for children and young people which has been formulated and delivered in conjunction with the fourteen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships in Belfast. Based on programme submissions, relatively modest amounts of funding of up to £5,000 are made available to each of the NRPs to enable them to give impetus to programmes or projects that have been identified within their action plans as priorities but for which funding is not otherwise secured. We have rolled out the 2016/17 funding to all 14 NRP's and a total of £69,886 was

awarded. The 2017/18 round of funding will be issued in early July 2017.

YF Pilot Study on Poverty in Belfast: key findings and recommendations.

- 3.15 **Background to project:** One of the campaign issues of the 2014-16 YF was poverty and the new 2016-18 YF retained this as a thematic priority issue. The last Forum spent a number of months engaging with the charity sector, service providers, researchers and academics from Queens University and Ulster University to understand the issue of poverty and to agree the focus for their project. As a result of these engagements, the YF highlighted that young people's voices were missing in the conversations about poverty in our city and for this reason set about designing and facilitating a youth led piece of research into young people's views on poverty in Belfast. The YF received research training from the National Children's Bureau (NCB) and from this our young people created a research tool.
- 3.16 Throughout May and June 2016 the YF met with youth groups across Belfast and conducted youth-led focus groups asking them about poverty in their city, its impacts and solutions for Government. Seven groups from all four parts of Belfast took part in the research: a total of 68 young people. Once the focus groups were completed, the data was collated and sent to NCB for analysis. A research report was then created and since Sept '16 the new YF has been working on finalising the report and shaping key recommendations for Government based on young people's opinions.
- 3.17 **Key Findings:** The report is called 'It's not a choice: Young people's views on poverty in Belfast, a pilot study.' The full report is attached, however, the following summarises the key findings:
- Young people associated poverty with a range of multi-faceted and inter-connecting issues including homelessness, living in overcrowded homes, poor housing conditions, poor physical and mental health, and a lack of basic necessities. They also highlighted unemployment or low paid employment, poor educational achievement, and a lack of choice in some aspects of life.
 - Young people identified low paid/minimum wage employment as one of the causes of poverty in Belfast.
 - Young people also identified inadequate welfare rates and lack of resources as other key causes of poverty in the city.

- Young people feel that investment in Belfast is too concentrated in the city centre and that their communities have been 'left behind' when it comes to the sharing economic growth in Belfast.
- Young people said poverty impacts negatively on their health, education and social life.
- Young people said that effective interventions must target whole families and communities, not just individuals.
- Young people said poverty is not a lifestyle choice and that Government needs to do more to raise awareness of poverty in Belfast and challenge the myths and stereotypes that exist around our most vulnerable disadvantaged people and communities.

3.18 Young people's recommendations: A key part of the youth-led focus groups involved asking young people what solutions they would like to give to Government in the campaign to end poverty. Young people gave many new and creative ideas. Our YF analysed these and have used them to create the following recommendations for Belfast City Council:

- i. Create a Living Wage recognition scheme:** This would recognise/reward employers in the city who pay, as a minimum, the living wage to their staff. It would work similarly to the 'Scores on the Doors' scheme that Council operates. This should be the 'True Living Wage' as set by the Living Wage Foundation.
- ii. Drive a Living Wage culture: Utilise contracting powers:** Council should use its power as a major contractor of services in Belfast to only award outside contracts to employers who pay their staff the Living Wage as a minimum.
- iii. Endorse equal wages for young people:** Council should endorse young people from the age of 16 onwards receiving equal pay for doing equal work to adults.
- iv. Create a plan to end poverty and share wealth:** This plan should tackle the root causes, create solutions and be funded to make it work. It should also make sure that as our economy grows, our most disadvantaged communities get an equal share of the wealth and investment.
- v. Commit to meaningful participation:** Have real conversations with people of all ages living in poorer communities before creating policies and making decisions about their lives. They know what they need, so ask them.

- vi. **Create more 'decent' jobs:** Young people think decent jobs are ones that pay well, develop their skills and talents and are long term and stable. Young people don't just want these jobs for themselves; they want them for their families and people in their communities too.
- vii. **Make sure people facing poverty get these jobs: target training & opportunities:** Council should create a work placement programme and career pathways especially for young people at risk of poverty (young carers, young people with disabilities and young people with low educational attainment for example). Work programmes should be built to meet *their needs* and should target them at key transition stages of their lives (like young people leaving school or young people leaving care).
- viii. **Make it free:** Council owned leisure centres should include 16, 17 & 18 year olds in their junior admission prices and offer free swims and gym memberships to young people on certain days of the week. Council should organise more free social events and spaces for young people in Belfast like music festivals, fun days and hang out spaces in the city centre.
- ix. **Raise Awareness:** Council should use its position as a city leader to raise awareness about poverty in Belfast and to challenge the myths and stereotypes about people and communities experiencing poverty and deprivation.

Next Steps:

- 3.19 ***It is significant that many of these recommendations link very closely with the Belfast Agenda and it is encouraging to note that the young people in Belfast share the aspirations of Council to work with others to improve the outcomes and the life chances of young people. The YF members are very socially aware and have made positive suggestions as to how Council and other organisations can work to reduce the levels of poverty within our city.***
- 3.20 **The Youth Forum hope to launch the report in City Hall on 10th May along with their 'Poverty: It's not a choice' campaign. Our YF and older people's forum (the G6) have been working together on an inter-generational project to create a video that raises awareness of the issue of poverty in Belfast and challenges the stereotypes surrounding people and communities experiencing poverty. This video will also be launched on 10th May and will be followed up with a social media campaign.**

- 3.21 Our young people then hope to present their research findings, recommendations and video to Committee and hope to work with Cllrs to implement recommendations from the report.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.22 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.23 There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Alleygating - Notice of Traffic Regulation Order 2017

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 Members will be aware that Council made £700,000 available from the Capital Programme to install alleygates across the city (Phase 4 Alleygates).
- 1.2 Proposed gate locations were discussed and agreed at Area Working Groups and approved by Council on 4 July 2016.
- 1.3 Members will also be aware that the legislative authority for introducing gating Orders transferred to local Councils through the commencement of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 on 4th May 2011.
- 1.4 The 2011 Act inserts new Part 6A (Articles 69A to 69E) into the 1993 Order. These new provisions allow action to be taken quickly, easily and with a degree of flexibility not previously available. District councils are now able to make, vary or revoke gating orders in respect of relevant roads (as defined in Article 69A(5) of the 1993 Order) affected by crime or ASB within their area, permitting a gate to be installed at each end of the road. The orders are an effective way of enabling councils to restrict public access to any relevant road by gating it (at certain times of the day if applicable), without removing its underlying road status.

1.5 Councils however still require the approval of the Transport NI ('DRD') to:

- a) make a gating order; or**
- b) vary a gating order so as to further restrict any public right of way over the road to which the order relates.**

1.6 The required statutory and community consultation has been undertaken and the purpose of this report is to seek formal approval from Committee to make the Traffic Regulation Orders enabling these gates to be installed.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to agree;

- To proceed to enact the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North, South, East and West Belfast) Orders 2016 to commence the installation of alleygates as set out within the attached appendix.**

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 The pre-consultation exercise with affected residents and Statutory bodies / service suppliers has been carried out and the Notice of Intention (formal consultation stage) was advertised on Friday 11th July.

3.2 One formal objection to the Traffic Regulation Orders was received in respect of proposed gates at Agincourt Avenue, questioning whether the installation of alleygates would make any difference to crime and anti-social behaviour in the area based on the objectors' previous experience of alleygates in the area.

3.3 However, after consideration, Legal Services have recommended that alleygating can proceed at this location, as Council can be satisfied the requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments Act (2011) have been met in establishing that this area is affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.

3.4 Manufacture of the gates included in this Traffic Regulation Order will take place in April/May 2017 with installation commencing in summer 2017.

3.5 Ongoing work is taking place to resolve issues around the remaining proposed gate locations approved by Council in 2016.

- 3.6 Additionally, some savings have been identified in some areas and Officers are working with the relevant Area Working Groups to agree further proposed gate locations.
- 3.7 A further Traffic Regulation Order is planned for summer 2017 to include those gate locations where issues had been identified and new gate locations for those areas with underspend.
- 3.8 Members should be aware that the level of response to the pre-consultation exercise was generally at a low level and also that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.
- 3.9 Legal Services have therefore recommended further engagement (post Phase 4) with Members on the process by which areas/locations are selected for alleygating.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.10 There are no specific financial implications associated with the enactment of this Traffic Regulation Order.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.11 No Equality or Good Relations implications have been identified, however, this is being monitored on an ongoing basis.”

Appendix

Alleygating Phase 4: 2017

Proposed Gating Orders:

- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North Belfast) Order 2017
- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order 2017
- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (East Belfast) Order 2017
- Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (West Belfast) Order 2017

North

- To the rear of 61-113 Alexandra Park Avenue
- To the side of 17 Ballycastle Court and rear of 199-207 Oldpark Road

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- To the side of 14 Ballycastle Court and rear of 179-193 Oldpark Road and 4-6 Ballymena Court
- To the side of 19 and 21 and rear of 9-19 Ballynure Street
- To the rear of 5-19 Ballymoney Street, 12-22 Rosapenna Street and 8-11 Rosapenna Court and to the side of 8 Rosapenna Court and 12 Rosapenna Street
- To the rear of 4-7 Bann Court and 1-6 Liffey Court
- To the rear of 7-11 Liffey Court and 18-32 Summer Street
- To the rear of 34-60 Castleton Gardens and 1-19 Jubilee Avenue and to the side of 36 Castleton Gardens
- To the rear of 2-62 Deacon Street, 27-41 Crosscollyer Street, 6-19 Seaview Close and 7-10 Parkmount Close and to the side of 226B North Queen Street, 62 and 64 Deacon Street
- To the rear of 4-42 Parkmount Street and 377 North Queen Street and to the side of 4 Parkmount Street
- To the rear of 23-41 Glenside Parade
- To the rear of 5-8 Ligoniel Place
- To the rear of 52-106 Stratheden Street, 1-5 Halliday's Road, 2 Edlingham Street and 183-229 New Lodge Road and to the side of 217 and 221 New Lodge Road and 2 Edlingham Street
- To the rear of 2-80 Wheatfield Crescent, 743-759 Crumlin Road and to the side of 2, 38 and 44 Wheatfield Crescent
- To the rear of 55-93 Wheatfield Crescent, 1-45 Ballysillan Road and 761-771 Crumlin Road and to the side of 93 and 55 Wheatfield Crescent
- To the rear of 23-45 Wyndham Street and 190-210 Cliftonville Road
- To the rear of 90-126 York Park and 2-38 York Crescent
- To the rear of 1-37 York Crescent and 2-36 York Parade
- To the rear of 1-33 York Parade and 2-32 York Drive

South

- To the rear of 2-24 Belgravia Avenue and 129-131 Lisburn Road and to the side of 2 and 24 Belgravia Avenue
- To the rear of 1-37 Cairo Street, 2-42 Damascus Street, 45-53 Agincourt Avenue and 37-47 Rugby Avenue and to the side of 1 and 37 Cairo Street and 2 Damascus Street
- To the rear of 1-65 Carmel Street, 59-63 College Park Avenue, 93-129 Agincourt Avenue, 66-84 Rugby Road and 1-17 Rugby Parade and to the side of 1 and 65 Carmel Street, 97, 99 and 129 Agincourt Avenue and 1 Rugby Parade
- To the rear of 1-43 Damascus Street, 25A-35 Rugby Avenue, 2-48 Jerusalem Street and 55-63 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 1 and 43 Damascus Street and 2 Jerusalem Street
- To the rear of 1-51 Jerusalem Street, 2-56 Palestine Street, 13-23 Rugby Avenue and 65-73 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 Palestine Street and 1 and 51 Jerusalem Street

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- To the rear of 1-57 Palestine Street, 2-64 Carmel Street, 1-11 Rugby Avenue and 75-83 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 Carmel Street and 1 and 57 Palestine Street
- To the rear of 1-25 Penrose Street, 2-36 Cairo Street, 49-61 Rugby Avenue and 41 and 43 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 and 36 Cairo Street and 1 Penrose Street
- To the rear of 2-28 Agincourt Street, 2-30 Penrose Street, 63-73 Rugby Avenue and 29-37 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 2 Penrose Street and 28 Agincourt Street
- To the rear of 1-27 Agincourt Street, 75-87 Rugby Avenue and 1-27 Agincourt Avenue and to the side of 27 Agincourt Street
- To the rear of 238-306 Donegall Avenue
- To the rear of 1-47 Ebor Drive, 2-50 Ebor Parade and 226-236 Tate's Avenue and to the side of 1 Ebor Drive and 2 Ebor Parade
- To the rear of 2-46 Ebor Drive, 109-161 Ebor Street and 218-224 Tate's Avenue and to the side of 2 Ebor Drive and 111 Ebor Street
- To the rear of 110-150 Ebor Street, 1-41 Olympia Street and to the side of 110 Ebor Street and 1 Olympia Street
- To the rear of 2-40 Olympia Street, 1-39 Runnymede Drive, 53-69 Olympia Drive and 190-204 Tate's Avenue and to the side of 2 and 40 Olympia Street and 1 and 39 Runnymede Drive
- To the rear of 80-106 Olympia Drive
- To the rear of 2-16 Wellesley Avenue, 7-17 Malone Road and 1-11 Wellington Park and to the side of 4, 6 and 16 Wellesley Avenue
- To the rear of 120-126 Lisburn Road, 106-110 Wellesley Avenue and 83-85 Wellington Park and to the side of 110 Wellesley Avenue
- To the rear of 2-24 Landseer Street and to the side of 2A, 2 and 24 Landseer Street
- To the rear of 1-9 Colenso Parade
- To the rear of 1-43 Landseer Street, 11-21 Colenso Parade, 12-22 Stranmillis Road and 2-46 Elaine Street and to the side of 1 and 43 Landseer Street and 2 and 46 Elaine Street
- To the rear of 3-49 Elaine Street, 23-35 Colenso Parade, 24-34 Stranmillis Road and 8-58 Pretoria Street and to the side of 3 and 49 Elaine Street and 8 Pretoria Street
- To the rear of 3-55 Pretoria Street, 37-45 Colenso Parade, 2-58 Stranmillis Gardens and Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church and 38-44 Stranmillis Road and to the side of 2 Stranmillis Gardens, 45 Colenso Parade and 55 Pretoria Street
- To the rear of 11-39 Powerscourt Place and to the side of 12 and 15 Essex Grove
- To the rear of 1-9 Powerscourt Place and 2-10 Essex Grove

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East

- To the rear of 16-60 Castlereagh Street, 143-155 Albertbridge Road, 1-31 Stormount Street and 4-8 Frank Street and to the side of 141 and 143 Albertbridge Road
- To the rear of 2-8 Stormount Street, 1-5 Stormount Crescent and 157-177 Albertbridge Road and to the side of 2 Stormount Street and 5 Stormount Crescent
- To the rear of 2-66 Bendigo Street, 1-67 Dunvegan Street and 103-113 Ravenhill Road and to the side of 2 Bendigo Street
- To the rear of 2-64 Dunvegan Street, 1-61 Carrington Street and 117-131 Ravenhill Road and to the side of 2 Dunvegan Street
- To the rear of 77-85 St Kilda Street
- To the rear of 1-15 Rathmore Street and 40-74 My Lady's Road and to the side of 1 Mount Street South and 2 Lawnmount Street
- To the rear of 76-110 My Lady's Road and 2-14 Eversleigh Street and to the side of 2B Cherryville Street
- To the rear of 2-8 Montrose Street South and 19-33 Vicarage Street and to the side of 2 Montrose Street South
- To the rear of 1-17 Kerrsland Drive and to the side of 8 Kerrsland Mews
- To the rear of 1-39 Kerrsland Crescent and to the side of 1 Kerrsland Mews and 1 and 39 Kerrsland Crescent
- To the rear of 115-157 Belmont Road, 2-26 Belmont Avenue West, 1-4 Belmont Close and 1A-5 Belmont Avenue and to the side of 1A and 1 Belmont Avenue and 14 and 16 Belmont Avenue West
- To the rear of 1A-33 Belmont Avenue West, 83-113 Belmont Road and 9-75 Belmont Avenue and to the side of 1A and 1 Belmont Avenue West and 39 and 41 Belmont Avenue
- To the rear of 17-47 Frome Street and 30-74 Dee Street
- To the rear of 26-34 Brandon Parade and to the side of 21 Brandon Terrace
- To the rear of 36-42 Brandon Parade and to the side of 4 Brandon Terrace
- To the rear of 56-64 Ravensdale Street and 135-141 Beersbridge Road and to the side of 58, 60, 62 and 64 Ravensdale Street
- To the rear of 53 and 55 Lord Street, 13-23 Kingswood Street and 37 and 39 Trillick Street and to the side of 53 Lord Street and 37 Trillick Street
- To the rear of 57-123 Lord Street, 1-35 Trillick Street and to the side of 35 Trillick Street and 123 Lord Street
- To the rear of 2-16 Kingswood Street and 27-37 Epworth Street
- To the rear of 145-185 Avoniel Road, 18-28 and 17-29 Templemore Place and to the side of 29 and 28 Templemore Place

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- **To the rear of 27-143 Avoniel Road, 12-64 Templemore Street and 22-30 Templemore Close and to the side of 27 Avoniel Road, 30, 32, 44, 48 and 64 Templemore Road**
- **To the rear of 1-51 Hyndford Street, 2-52 Abetta Parade and 59-67 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 51 Hyndford Street and 52 Abetta Parade**
- **To the rear of 2-76 Hyndford Street and 1-67 Greenville Road**
- **To the rear of 10-20 Greenville Road and 11 Clara Crescent Lower and to the side of 11 Clara Crescent Lower**
- **To the rear of 1-5 Clara Crescent Lower, 1-5 Clara Avenue and to the side of 1 Clara Crescent Lower and 1 Clara Avenue**
- **To the rear of 26-42 Greenville Road and to the side of 8 Clara Crescent Lower and 2 Clara Crescent Upper**
- **To the rear of 46-50 Greenville Road, 1-19 Clara Crescent Upper, 25 and 27 Clara Avenue and 31-55 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 50 Greenville Road**
- **To the rear of 4-44 Clara Avenue, 1-41 Hollycroft Avenue, 19-29 Woodcot Avenue and 361 Beersbridge Road and to the side of 6, 8 and 44 Clara Avenue and 1 and 41 Hollycroft Avenue**
- **To the rear of 4-40 Hollycroft Avenue, 1-29 Melrose Avenue, 371 Beersbridge Road and 7-17 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 4, 12 and 40 Hollycroft Avenue and 1 and 29 Melrose Avenue**
- **To the rear of 4-36 Melrose Avenue, 1-15 Bloomfield Road, 373-381 Beersbridge Road and 1 Woodcot Avenue and to the side of 4 Melrose Avenue**

West

- **To the rear of 1-17 Springhill Crescent**
- **To the rear of 54-62 Horn Drive and 28-38 Horn Walk**
- **To the rear of 20-30 Black's Road and 3-8 Ringford Park**
- **To the rear of 153-167 Ballygomartin Road and 1 Westway Drive and to the side of 3 Westway Drive**
- **To the rear of 89-123 Broom Park and 2-28 Mulberry Park**
- **To the rear of 10-14 Glasvey Drive and 1-9 Glasvey Park**

A Member highlighted the current lengthy decision making process in respect of the erection of new alleygates and he requested that the Council liaise with other relevant external agencies to examine whether the current process could be expedited.

A further Member raised a query regarding additional alleygates at Jamaica Road and the Assistant Director undertook to update the Member directly in respect of this matter.

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The Committee agreed:

- to proceed to enact the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North, South, East and West Belfast) Orders 2016 to commence the installation of Alleygates in those parts of the City; and
- that officers would liaise with Legal Services and other relevant external agencies to examine whether the current decision making process for the erection of alleygates could be expedited for any future capital schemes.

**Consultation Re: design of new play facility
at Navarra Place**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to the proposed dates for two consultation events that had been organised in conjunction with the Department of Justice (DoJ) to provide an opportunity for local residents to have input in the design of the new play facility for Navarra Place.

He detailed that the consultation would focus on the following:

- lay-out of the park;
- equipment and facilities for the park, including a potential MUGA; and
- the potential 'designing-out' of the interface fence.

The Committee was advised that the consultation would also be available on the Council's consultation portal for feedback between the dates of 28th March and 16th April. Residents and stakeholders would be identified and invited to attend with the assistance of the IFI Peacewalls Programme funder Greater Whitewell Community Surgery Group.

The Members noted the proposed dates for the consultation events regarding the redevelopment of the playground at Navarra Place/White City, as follows:

- Wednesday 5th April in Hazelwood Primary School 3.00 -7.00 p.m.;
- and
- Thursday 6th April in White City Community Centre 4.00 – 8.00 p.m.

**Leasing of Belvoir Bowling Green
to Balmoral Bowling Club**

The Committee was reminded that Belvoir Bowling Club had transferred to the Council from the former Castlereagh Borough Council (CBC) on the 1st April, 2015, under Local Government Reform.

The Assistant Director reported that Balmoral Bowling Club had been established in 1943 and had played at Belvoir Bowling Green since 1982. The Club had entered into a 99 year lease with CBC from 1st November, 1994 in respect of the land on which the

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pavilion was situated, subject to the payment of five pence per annum, if demanded. Balmoral Bowling Club had subsequently constructed the bowling pavilion on this land.

The Committee was advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed, at its meeting held on 23rd October, 2016, that the Council should enter into a 25 year lease agreement with Balmoral Bowling Club in respect of the bowling green.

The Committee noted that, under the terms of the lease agreement, Balmoral Bowling Club was responsible for the repair, maintenance and upkeep of the bowling green. The Assistant Director advised that a recent inspection of the bowling green had been carried out by a turf consultant which had recommended that improvements should be made to the surface of the bowling green. Whilst these works would not constitute 'major surgery' they would require a programme of good husbandry and grounds maintenance.

The Committee:

- approved a separate Funding Agreement between the Council and Balmoral Bowling Club; and
- noted that the Funding Agreement would provide Balmoral Bowling Club with a maximum of £15,000 over the first 3 years of the 25 year lease, to allow Balmoral Bowling Club, who would be responsible for the maintenance of the bowling green, to finance improvements over the 3 year period.

Springfield Star - Lease Agreement

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to fund the development of a mini soccer pitch with associated fencing and lighting at Springmartin under the first round of the Local Investment Programme. She reported that, at the time, Springfield Star had agreed to manage and maintain the asset at no cost to the Council and had agreed to a 3 year lease period which had lapsed in September 2016.

The Committee was advised that officers had met with a representative of the Trustees, who had indicated a willingness and desire to continue with a lease agreement for a further period of 3 years, with an option to renew the lease for a further 3 years.

The Committee agreed to extend the current lease agreement with the Trustees of Springfield Star for a period of 3 years, with an option to renew for a further 3 years, from the end date of the previous agreement, subject to the approval of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Acquisition of Land adjoining Twinbrook Wildlife Park

The Assistant Director advised that Twinbrook Wildlife Park comprised of a 2.5 acre plot of open space / grassland which had transferred under Local Government Reform from Lisburn City Council on 1st April, 2015. She detailed that the land lay between the Summerhill Road and Creighton Road adjoining the Twinbrook housing

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estate. Prior to the transfer it had been badly neglected, with little or no ground works, and there had been extensive evidence of fly tipping. She reported that, following the transfer, Belfast City Council had completed Phase 1 of a refurbishment project which had provided surfaced walkways, along with landscaping and extensive planting at an estimated cost of £100,000.

The officer reported that two adjoining plots of unused and overgrown grassland fronting Summerhill Road had been declared surplus to the requirements of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Transport NI. In 2016, the Council had expressed an interest in acquiring these plots of 0.2 acres and 0.19 acres respectively. Land and Property Services, acting on behalf of the landowners, had offered the land to the Council, subject to considerations of £7,000 and £6,800, which was considered to be fair and reasonable.

The Committee was asked to note that Phase 2 of the Twinbrook Wildlife Park refurbishment project was proposing that these two plots of land would be incorporated to provide an integrated Wildlife Park, with improved access from Summerhill Road and Creighton Road.

The Committee:

- agreed to acquire the freehold interest in two plots of land that adjoined the Council owned Twinbrook Wildlife Park; and
- noted that a report would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval in accordance with standing orders.

**Marrowbone Millennium
Park Playground Location**

The Committee was reminded of proposals, as part of the Urban Villages Programme, to refurbish Marrowbone Millennium Park.

The Assistant Director advised that the park currently consisted of an artificial pitch, a temporary changing pavilion, a playground and a network of paths located within a landscaped area. She highlighted that the playground had been subject to vandalism and anti-social behaviour over the years and that it was currently used as a gathering point, often attracting incidents of anti-social behaviour. She reported that, during discussions with locally Elected Members and the PSNI, consideration had been given to the potential relocation of this playground to a more suitable location which would provide more natural surveillance and attract greater community ownership.

The Assistant Director sought approval for officers to explore potential locations in the area. She advised that any such relocation would be dependent upon:

- finding and securing a suitable location;
- securing community support and agreement;
- securing the necessary statutory approvals; and
- affordability.

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The Committee authorised officers to explore options regarding the most suitable location for a playground to serve the community around Marrowbone Millennium Park.

Operational Issues

Public Toilets Update

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

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the issues surrounding public toilets and seek strategic direction in relation to the Hope Street facility.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Note the contents of the report, and**
- 2. Approve that Waste Management informs the contractor of its intention to terminate the Hope Street, Automatic Public Convenience (APC) contract in line with the contract terms and conditions (i.e. 6 months before contract end date of July 2018).**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will be aware that Waste Management is responsible for the management of the 14 public toilets within Belfast. The public toilet estate is comprised of 7 traditional toilets, 6 Automatic Public Toilets (APCs) which require payment of a twenty pence fee to access (20p) and 1 retractable urinal at Shaftesbury Square, which supports the night time economy. Details of these facilities are contained in the recently updated promotional leaflet which is distributed by a network of Council and partner organisations (e.g. Belfast Visitor & Welcome Centre, Libraries NI - Public Toilets in Belfast (Locations & Opening Times)).

Loo of the Year Awards, 2016

3.2 Members may recall that the Council is assessed each year by the British Toilet Association (BTA) regarding the standard of its public toilets. The BTA is the main organisation promoting and improving standards in ‘away from home’ public toilets in the UK. Its activities include raising

awareness of public toilets and recognising good practice through the national '*Loo of the Year Awards*' which are sponsored by private companies and local tourist boards.

3.3 At the awards ceremony in December 2016, the Council gained the following recognition for its public toilet provision:

- Overall National Award winner for Public Toilets
- Attained '*Champions League*' – Standard of Excellence
- Winetavern Street toilets – National award winner for non-attended toilets
- Antrim Road APC – National Award winner for Automatic Public Toilets
- Seventh position (up one position on previous year) in the Local Authority Public Toilets '*Premier League*'

3.4 As well as the above accolades, the Council entered 12 public toilets in the various award categories and all 12 scored platinum, the highest level possible. In addition, the public toilets in the City Hall picked up an award for the best '*Town Hall*' toilets. Further details on the Loo of the Year awards are available online at <http://www.loo.co.uk/250/2016-National-Award-Winners>

Anti-Social Behaviour

3.5 Over recent years the main unwanted activity experienced at the Council's public toilets, and in particular APCs, has been the increase in the prevalence of drug related material discarded or deposited in the units. This is in line with the increasing trend of drug use in society as frequently reported in the media. In November 2016, the BBC reported that the Public Health Agency '*Needle Exchange Programme*' witnessed an increase in visits in four years from 7,500 to just under 15,000. At the time of this news item, there were 18 needle-exchange facilities across NI and 3 additional facilities are due to be provided to support this scheme in 2017.

3.6 Following this increase in sharps finds (syringes), the Council has liaised with their contracted service providers and other public bodies on an on-going basis to take measures to counteract this behaviour. Each of the Council's APCs (except Hope Street) are fitted with sharps boxes to allow a safe disposal route for these items. This initiative was taken by the Service to safeguard the public, as well as Council and contractor staff. Further measures have been installed in these units to deter the use of illegal drugs. Most drug advisory charities give guidance to users on the disposal unit at the public toilets and this appears to be working well.

- 3.7 Anecdotal reports from the contractor (Healthmatic) who maintains these units and removes the drug related materials, suggests a decrease in the inappropriate disposal of sharps in the APCs. The sharps boxes are being installed in the Council's standard (non-fee paying) public toilets, with Winetavern Street already completed and work is ongoing to install these throughout 2017/18 in the remaining assets, where feasible.

Changing Places Facilities

- 3.8 On 6 Feb 2013, the Health & Environmental Services Committee meeting approved a PC Provision Strategy for Belfast. One of the issues highlighted within this report was the absence of a Changing Places facility in the city.
- 3.9 Thousands of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities cannot use standard accessible toilets. Changing Places facilities include special equipment and support for carers by providing an 'away from home' toilet for this audience – and there is a Changing Places Initiative to promote installation of these facilities in suitable venues. Provision of such facilities improves social inclusion and demonstrates a city committed to the benefit of all. It also assists care providers in terms of planning their day out with individuals who would benefit from such facilities.
- 3.10 When developing the Girdwood Community hub, the Council's project team had the foresight to incorporate a Changing Places toilet in its design making this the first Council site to include such a facility; another unit was installed at the newly refurbished Olympia Leisure Centre. This brings the total number of Changing Places toilets in NI to 15. Further Changing Places toilets have been included in the design stage of other Council Leisure Transformation schemes, and efforts continue to locate a facility in the city centre.

Promotion

- 3.11 To promote general awareness of the Council's public toilets, a number of actions have recently been undertaken. The promotional literature outlining the locations, opening hours and on-site facilities has been revised and is distributed by a network of Council and partner organisations (e.g. Belfast Visitor & Welcome Centre, Libraries NI).
- 3.12 The toilet information on the Council's web site has been reviewed and updated, along with a new, more informative and user-friendly map which no longer requires a postcode to

access relevant information. This amendment is aimed specifically at improving the information for tourists.

- 3.13 On the streets, the latest signboard designs incorporate information on areas of interest, local landmarks etc and include public toilet details. This signposting of practical information is targeted particularly at out-of-town visitors.
- 3.14 The British Toilet Association (BTA) has approached the Council regarding the potential for an interactive map which would provide details of all toilets available for public use within the city not just those operated by the Council. For example, this could include those facilities present in fast-food premises, hospitality outlets, entertainment venues, retail premises. Again, it is envisaged that this would be particularly useful for tourists.

Hope Street

- 3.15 The APC located at Hope Street is provided under contract by JC Decaux. The unit is an older-model APC (1988) and presents a number of challenges for the Council. The facility was installed before the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act and, as such, does not meet the standards required and included within later versions of APCs.
- 3.16 In January 2017, UTV ran a news item highlighting a find of drug paraphernalia at the Hope Street APC. Unlike all of the other APCs in the Council's toilet portfolio, due to its older design this unit is unable to accommodate a sharps box. Additionally, the automatic cleaning regime is less rigorous than the newer APC models.
- 3.17 Given the above issues, and that an alternative public toilet is located on the Dublin Road, less than 325 meters away and within line of sight, the Service recommends that the Hope Street APC should be removed. In order to do this, the Council must give the contractor 6 months' notice before the end of the contract, in July 2018.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.18 Should the Hope Street Unit be removed it would result in avoided costs of around £20,000 per annum. It is suggested that this sum should be re-invested in the public toilet network and in particular to offset any leasing and maintenance costs associated with a new Changing Places facility in the city centre.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.19 There are no relevant Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report.”

A Member welcomed the inclusion within the report of information in respect of Changing Places Facilities and requested that a more detailed report be submitted to a future meeting.

A further Member referred to the update in respect of the erection of sharps boxes which allowed for the safe disposal of sharps, for example, needles and he sought additional information on the anecdotal reports that suggested a decrease in the inappropriate disposal of these sharps in the Automatic Public Toilets.

The Committee:

- commended the work of the Public Convenience Operatives;
- granted approval for Waste Management to inform the contractor of its intention to terminate the Hope Street, Automatic Public Convenience (APC) contract in line with the contract terms and conditions (that is, 6 months before contract end date of July 2018); and
- agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting that would provide more detail in respect of:
 - Changing Places Facilities throughout the City; and
 - the installation of sharp boxes and the anecdotal information that suggested a decrease in the inappropriate disposal of sharps.

**Community and Play Centre –
Nominations to Management Committees**

The Community Development Manager advised that a number of changes to the approved Member representation on the Community and Play Centre Committees had recently been received and she drew the Members' attention to the revised list.

The Committee approved the revised list of appointees to the Community and Play Centre Committees, subject to the list being updated to reflect the following changes in membership:

- the replacement of the former Councillor McNamee with Councillor O'Neill on Knocknagoney Community Centre; and
- the replacement of the former Councillor Bradshaw with Councillor Nicholl on the Olympia Community Centre.

Girdwood Update

(Mrs. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide an outline of progress to committee on the Girdwood Community Hub.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note progress to date
- Consider the request for political representative on the Girdwood Community Forum.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 The Girdwood site in north Belfast has been transformed into a state of the art shared space community hub which offers first-class leisure, community and education facilities. The project, which has a total value of £20 million with significant income via the EU’s PEACE III Programme, has been developed in partnership with the Girdwood Hub Forum.

3.2 The Community Hub and Pitch is the first step in the wider regeneration of Girdwood Park, a 14 acre site located between Crumlin Road and Cliftonpark Avenue. The hub is part of Council’s [Investment Programme](#) and also ties in with plans to [transform our leisure services](#) over the next decade.

Community Participation:

3.3 The Girdwood Community Forum was set up by Belfast City Council in 2011 to work in partnership with Council in delivering the Girdwood Community Hub project as a centre for peace and reconciliation and a shared site. The Forum is a cross community body chaired by council and made up of over 20 groups from the surrounding area, representatives from the Department for Communities, Belfast MET, Newington Housing Association, PSNI and other key stakeholders. There has been consistent and committed

representation from those community groups who work around the Girdwood site.

- 3.4 Last year, Forum members agreed that given the change in stage of some of the key elements of the project, that is to post construction, it would be timely to review the terms of reference and the membership to ensure clarity of roles and responsibility and effective engagement. The review was supported with external facilitation, initially from Stratagem and then by Stellar Leadership. At each stage of the process the recommendations were amended to reflect stakeholder comment. A final draft proposal, which summarised the conversation to date and outlined proposals to refresh the community engagement arrangements, was formally considered by the Forum at their meeting in Feb 2017.
- 3.5 The paper proposes two focused structures – one with a Girdwood Park planning remit and the other with a Girdwood Hub & Pitches delivery remit. This proposal reflects the need to retain the identified best practice of the Forum while also addressing the need for an operational group to address the ‘day to day’ aspects of the Facility which is managed by GLL.
- 3.6 While some community members raised concerns around the potential to *dilute* the role of the Forum, the formal community feedback supported a need for an operational group to co-ordinate the work of the various operational partners within the Girdwood Community Hub. They indicated that any such group would report back to the Girdwood Community Forum to record progress and note issues. The Forum noted the concerns and agreed to adopt the recommendations on an interim basis subject to ongoing review.
- 3.7 The discussion noted the overriding desire to retain the open membership and therefore accessibility of the Girdwood Community Forum (GCF) which has been cited by all as an example of best practice for community engagement. There is agreement, however, that membership of the new Girdwood Operational Group (GOG) would be limited to those with a service delivery remit and will be chaired by GLL. The Forum agreed that others can and will be invited to join and attend either the Forum or the Operational Group as issues that matter to them arise.
- 3.8 The review also highlighted the need for Forum members to be supported to keep their organisations and wider networks informed. Priority will be given to developing a communications plan and to identify support channels to ensure provision is made to engage, involve, consult and

inform the wider community of issues and proposals as they emerge. A 'lessons learnt' and outcome based planning workshop is being planned for April 2017.

3.9 Community representatives also suggest the model should be built upon and would be strengthened by the involvement of Belfast City Councillors on the Forum. Officers agreed to put this to committee for consideration in the context of Council protocols and precedent in this regard. Since April 2016, community representatives from the Forum have been invited to meet with the North Area Working Group on a bi-monthly basis to monitor progress. The Girdwood Community Forum representatives nominated to attend the meetings are (please note that whilst the representatives are there on behalf of the Girdwood Community Forum, all have their own individual organisations):

- Manus Maguire (Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum)
- Janice Beggs (Lower Oldpark Community Association)
- Ian McLaughlin (Lower Shankill Community Outreach Project)
- Paul O'Neill (Ashton Community Trust)
- Rosemary McGreevy (Thorndale Duncairn Kinnard Residents Association)

Community Programming:

3.10 The Girdwood Community Hub has now been open for just over one year. In that time it has shown itself to be a fantastic facility and asset that is used in increasing numbers by local residents and young people from the surrounding communities – Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark, New Lodge, Cliftonville, Girdwood, and Thorndale, Duncairn, Kinnard and across North Belfast and beyond. For example, in October 2016 a Halloween event drew more than 1,200 local people with representative attendance across community background and age profiles.

3.11 The priority objective is to ensure the Hub is accepted as a safe and welcoming venue for everyone and that it is used by nearby community groups, as well as other organisations in north Belfast, including statutory bodies and charities.

3.12 The Hub is managed by GLL. The on-site facilities include:

- state of the art gym equipment
- spa

- sports hall and changing facilities for a wide range of group exercises, including a range of cardio, strength, conditioning and relaxation classes
- multi-purpose rooms for a variety of events and activities
- community space for after-schools, crafts and other activities
- birthday party room hire
- classrooms for courses with Belfast Metropolitan College
- a dedicated youth space
- an outdoor piazza with seating, as well as a range of other facilities

Leisure and Sports Development

- 3.13 GLL have an extensive programme with a broad activity offer, for example, Chronic Condition Management Programme, Women's programme in partnership with WISPA, Cardiac rehab, Stroke association speech and language therapy, pulmonary rehab programme and Jog Belfast. They are also working with Volunteer Now to specifically look at extending seniors involvement including a Men's Shed project, coffee mornings, etc. They are working in partnership with MacMillan Cancer and a project support officer has now started with GLL and is based in Girdwood.

Belfast Metropolitan College

- 3.14 Belfast Met are running a range of education programmes from their dedicated facility on site. These include Essential skills - literacy, numeracy and ICT, Family learning, Childcare, Beginners and Improvers computer courses and Tour Guides. In partnership with the Prince's Trust, they are delivering a 12 week Team programme for young people between the ages of 16 and 24. The college are working with the Forum to encourage participation in their current programme and to inform and extend their future programme offer.
- 3.15 Officers from the LEMIS+ Project recently presented to the Forum in order to agree how to promote better linkages between the opportunities / availability of training and mentor offers via LEMIS and the users at Girdwood.

Dedicated Youth Space

- 3.16 The Forum have endorsed the need for a community provider of the Youth Space and welcomed this as a capacity building pathway towards the aspiration for future community management of the Hub. The work was initially developed by

North Talks Too (NTT) with input from the Youth Space Working Group (YSWG) of the wider GCF. BCC have since provided technical assistance from the *Interaction Institute for Social Change* to support NTT to develop a detailed business proposal. Any proposal needs to demonstrate ongoing engagement with and incorporation of the views of the broader community before being tabled with the GCF for formal endorsement. Whilst the original outline proposal came from NTT, community representatives propose that the governance structures of Girdwood Community Trust (GCT) would be better placed to take the proposal forward. Founding members of GCT (and NTT) are Lower Oldpark Community Association, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum and Lower Shankill Community Association.

- 3.17 Once a final proposal is submitted, it will be assessed by Council officers and presented to Council for any resource decision. A joint funding application will be made to the Executive Office.
- 3.18 Prior to a community management contract being in place, officers from Community Services are supporting the YSWG in the development and delivery of the activity programme within the Youth Space and wider Hub. The latest programme runs to the end of March 2017 and the working group are already planning to extend this to the end of June. The programme is collaborative in nature involving local community youth providers, funded by BCC and the Executive Office, and provides a range of activity for young people such as: arts, IT and sports for all encouraging access to the Hub. The addition of the media suite within the Youth Space provides an opportunity to reach older people and young parents as well as children and young people. The programme includes outreach and detached work which aims to support local young people at risk, reduce ASB on site and encourage involvement in the Youth Space and Hub.
- 3.19 Shared Space: The Girdwood Community Hub Forum established a Shared Space and Programming working group in August 2015 to develop and agree a shared space approach that will inform the programming of all areas of the Girdwood Community Hub. The key objectives of the Shared Space and Programming working group are:
- Agree the establishment of a small group of stakeholders, with Belfast City Council, to oversee the development of the shared space approach and GCH programme

- Consult with wider stakeholders through an engagement process which is agreed
 - Report back to the Girdwood Forum on progress
 - Develop a communication protocol to ensure that the development process and the plan is appropriately communicated to all stakeholders
 - Build in a monitoring process to measure and adjust the delivery of the shared space plan
- 3.20 Belfast City Council Good Relations Unit is facilitating the Shared Space and Programming working group. The group is composed of three nominated community representatives and representatives from BMC, GLL and BCC.
- 3.21 The Shared Space and Programming Group delivered a very successful summer programme in association with the local community organisations: this included the Girdwood Community Cup, which, due to the success of the event, the group has endorsed as an annual event for the Hub. A further highlight was the very well-attended performance of a hard-hitting theatre piece, 'Those that we pass on the street', delivered by Kabosh Theatre Company and with a community-led facilitated conversation following the performance: this play was complemented with an exhibition on 'Everyday Objects' associated with the Troubles and delivered in association with Healing through Remembering.
- 3.22 The main focus of the Shared Space group over the last number of weeks has been the organisation of the community event 'Spring into Girdwood' on Saturday 25 March 2017. The event was an opportunity to celebrate and mark the first 12months of operation and the programme included a range of activities to cater for all ages ranges such as: Circus skills, inflatables, petting farm, animal interaction station, junior football tournament, birds of prey display, mountain biking skills, arts and crafts, performance acts, free BBQ, climbing wall, kiddies amusement rides, photobooth, music entertainment, playbus, a dedicated youth zone and go karts.
- 3.23 Community Safety: A recent Committee report noted Girdwood as one of a number of sites across the city affected with a level of criminal damage including inappropriate use of scramblers, abuse of staff/residents, rowdy and nuisance behaviour. Analysis of incident reports for the site shows the frequency of incidents at Girdwood as unpredictable, however, the level of ongoing nuisance and anti-social behaviour within the building and site remains of concern. In order to proactively maintain the safety and shared nature of the site/building, BCC chair the Girdwood 'Site Management

and Operations' sub-group. The group, which meets monthly, includes BCC community safety and development officers and community and statutory representatives on the Forum including PSNI, DfC and Newington Housing Association. They recently completed a review of the Community Impact Assessment and the Site Management Protocol. The BCC Community Engagement Officer produces an incident report for each meeting using PSNI, GLL and BCC info. This information informs any recommendations for ameliorative action or development activity in order to promote the venue as a safe, welcoming space, inclusive for all.

- 3.24 There has been a decline in incidents reported since December 2016. While this is in part seasonal, it has also been positively supported by securing DfC investment to raise the height of the pitch fencing and, importantly, via the ongoing proactive youth engagement and outreach programme.

Community Benefit Project of the year

- 3.25 The development was awarded the coveted prize of Community Benefit Project of the year at the Property Excellence Ireland Awards. It shared this prize jointly with Cosgrave Developments for their work at Honeypark in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The judges assessed Girdwood Community Hub's benefit to the community based on a range of criteria however the close links between the development team and the Girdwood Community Forum and the positive development of contested space were key to its success. This category is the only category that was voted on by members of the public and 70% of the vote was dictated by the public vote, 30% by the judging panel. This category is central to the Corporate Social Responsibility aspect of the programme and was the most highly contested category of the entire awards ceremony.

Developing the Hub

- 3.26 The development is the first step in the wider regeneration of Girdwood Park by the Department for Communities against the Girdwood Masterplan agreed by the Executive in May 2012. A development brief relating to the mixed use area appeared in the 3 main newspapers on 2 consecutive weeks in February 2017. The advert was to notify the public on how to request a copy of the development brief for consumption. DfC had previously worked with the Forum to agree content. DfC has commissioned the Strategic Investment

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**Board to look at the development of the indoor sports site.
They will consult with the Forum and the wider community to
inform any draft proposals.**

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.27 There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.28 The Girdwood Community Forum has been cited as an example of good practice to support community engagement for this Shared Space development.”**

The Committee agreed to the request for political representation on the Girdwood Community Forum and referred the matter to the North Area Working Group for it to make a decision in respect of the appointments.

Provision of Containers and other Storage Accommodation

The Committee considered a report which set the Council's policy position in respect of the provision of containers for storage of machinery, materials and equipment.

The Assistant Director advised that containers would normally be acquired when the Council determined a need to provide safe and secured storage for machinery and / or equipment required for the operation of a facility.

The Committee was asked to note that the proposed policy did not relate to requests for containers to be used as temporary dry changing facilities and meeting rooms. It also did not relate to requests from a third party sports club or other organisation in relation to machinery, materials , machinery and equipment acquired or used by a third party (and not provided by the Council).

The Committee agreed that:

- where containers were required by Council in the operation of a facility that the Council would provide a container;
- where containers were required or requested by a third party the Council would not provide such but would consider granting permission for the third party to provide containers; and
- a protocol document would be prepared based on the report and be used to inform future decisions.

Belfast Handyperson Home Safety Check and Repair Service - Update

The Committee was reminded that it had previously approved the delivery of home safety assessments for older people through the Bryson Energy Handy Person Service.

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The Assistant Director reported that the scheme had now been operational for 2 years at a cost in the region of £34,377 per annum. She advised that the funding for this scheme had been provided by the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the scheme had been managed by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT). Following a procurement exercise, Bryson Energy had been awarded the contract to carry out the home safety checks and repairs.

The Committee was reminded also that it had previously approved an additional financial contribution from the Council of £10,000 towards the scheme. This money was used to discount the cost of additional repairs requested by the householder during the home safety checks.

The officer reported that the pilot had now come to an end and the partners had agreed that, given the benefit the service provided to the citizens of Belfast, it should continue long term. She advised that the current service contract had been extended for a further 12 months to allow for the future development of the project to be finalised. In addition, the partners had also requested if the Council would consider procuring and managing the service.

The Assistant Director advised that between the period of April and February 2017, 436 home safety checks, 117 repair hours (PHA) and 212 additional repair hours (Belfast City Council) had been carried out/undertaken and overall there had been very positive feedback on the scheme.

The Committee agreed:

- that from April 2018 the Council would procure and manage the Home Safety Check and Repair Service on behalf of its partners; and
- to continue supporting the Belfast Handyperson Scheme and approved a financial contribution of £10,000 to the scheme for the financial year 2017/2018 from existing budgets.

**Request for the use of the Cathedral Gardens
for Christian Aid "Refugee Solidarity Sleep Out" Event**

The Director advised that a request had been received from Christian Aid seeking permission to use Cathedral Gardens from 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 12th May until 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 13th May. He explained that the event aimed to show solidarity with refugees across Europe and the Middle East who were forced to sleep out every night.

The Members were advised that this event would require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the site and would involve Christian Aid supporters erecting tents and sleeping out overnight on-site. In addition to the small camp, a larger tent would be erected. This would contain an exhibition highlighting Christian Aid's work with refugees in Lebanon, Iraq, Greece and Serbia.

The Committee approved the Christian Aid Event at Cathedral Gardens, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

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- the Event Organiser meets all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety and licensing responsibilities; and
- the Event Organiser consults with adjoining public bodies, the local community and the PSNI as necessary.

Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) - National Conference, London

The Committee authorised the attendance of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and up to two relevant officers to attend the CIWM National Conference in London from 27th – 28th June.

Street Naming

The Committee approved:

- The naming in respect of Haddo Place, Haddo Crescent, and Haddo Lane, off Lady Ishbel Avenue, BT8; and
- the continuation of existing streets in the City, namely, Lady Ishbel Avenue, off Hospital Road, BT8.

Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee considered again the following report which had been deferred at its meeting held on 7th March 2017:

Appendix 1

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report outlines a series of proposed outdoor events, delivered by large arts organisations, in partnership with the Council. Each event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to review events in Parks and Open Spaces as part of the city-wide events framework, in line with the corporate strategic review of events and festivals, and the programme of work for the European Capital of Culture bid;**
- **Approve the series of partnership events as set out below, including funding requested, the closure of facilities as required for the set-up, delivery and take-down of the events, resolving all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction;**

- Agree that the appropriate legal agreements for each programme, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the Town Solicitor;
- Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing (including for the sale of alcohol, where required);
- Agree the timely payment of the agreed charges and bonds as required in the legal agreements; and
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 Over the past 5 years, the Council has established successful partnership arrangements with the Belfast Festival, Feile an Phobail and Belfast Mela. These type of events are well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces.
- 3.2 The partnership has delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets. Last year, these partnerships delivered events in North (Girdwood), West (Falls/City Cemetery), South (Botanic) and City Centre (City Hall).
- 3.3 In February, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee gave approval for the Council to explore the potential for a bid to become the UK host for the 2023 European Capital of Culture. As part of this, a diverse high quality programme of events will be developed, with the support of city stakeholders. It is clear that this developing programme would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the city's parks and open spaces. It is therefore proposed that it is timely for officers to initiate a review of this particular series of partnership events in parks, with a view to streamlining within a corporate approach as agreed by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. It is anticipated that this review would be complete in time for the 2018/19 programme of events, to be brought to People and Communities Committee for its consideration in due course.

Proposals for 2017

- 3.4 Following discussions with the 3 existing partners, a series of events has been proposed for the incoming season:

- **Belfast Mela** – a multicultural festival for approximately 20,000 people to be held in Botanic Gardens in partnership with ArtsEkta;
- **Feile an Phobail** – a number of events in the vicinity of Falls Park, including marquee events and historical tours of City Cemetery; and
- **Belfast International Arts Festival** – a programme of family-focussed outdoor theatre events in East and centre of the city.

Further detail on each event is provided below.

Belfast Mela

- 3.5** The Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 27 August 2017.
- 3.6** It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000) given the positive economic impact it has for the city, improved good relations and attractiveness of the Council assets.
- 3.7** As a condition to funding, it is recommended that ArtsEkta is requested to facilitate community engagement and taster events in other local neighbourhoods, to build the audience from across the city. Specific locations could be identified in conjunction with the Community Parks Outreach team, ensuring a spread across the city.
- 3.8** In particular, the Mela organisers have highlighted the imminent completion of the Tropical Ravine and they are working with the Outreach team, in order to profile this city heritage venue as part of its launch.
- 3.9** In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:
- 1.** In this particular instance the Council has received a request for use for Upper and Lower Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 27 August 2017 from midday to 7.00pm;
 - 2.** The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
 - 3.** The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 21st August to 30th August 2017 inclusive in Botanic Gardens;

4. ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access will be restricted to ticket holders only;
5. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy; and
6. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

- 3.10 Consultation by ArtsEkta will be undertaken with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.

Feile an Phobail

- 3.11 Feile an Phobail has requested permission to organise a number of events in Falls Park. They may require the use of other Council facilities e.g. bowling pavilion as the final list of events have not yet been finalised. Similar to previous years, the events include:

- Carnival parade through Falls Park
- Teddy Bears picnic in Falls Park
- Feile family entertainment day in the park, music events and family entertainment
- Guided historical tours in the City Cemetery which would be charged for appropriately by the tour provider.

- 3.12 In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are :

1. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 25th July up to 20th August 2017 inclusive in Falls Park. Feile runs over the period 3rd August to 13th August;
2. The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
3. An occasional licence will be applied for by the organisers for the sale of alcohol and an entertainment licence for the period of the event;
4. This application will be supported by an Event Management Plan and will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;
5. Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions

and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.

- 3.13 A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which, due to the nature of the events, will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

Belfast International Arts Festival

- 3.14 The Council has received a proposal from Belfast International Arts Festival to deliver a programme of free, family-focused events in City Hall grounds and CS Lewis Square. This programme rotates around the city and was in Girdwood Park in 2016.

- 3.15 The proposed event to be held at City Hall and CS Lewis Square is *Motosikai* (pronounced moto-see-k'eye) is a unique, outdoor circus show from Race Horse Company, the acclaimed daredevil Finnish circus company. Motosikai is a mobile and adjustable show performed out of a van packed with circus equipment. The three circus artists perform teeterboard and acrobatic stunts with great humour and skill – appearing and disappearing from the confines of the van via a hidden trampoline. Energetic, full of surprises and endlessly entertaining, it is designed to entertain children and adults alike. The show will be performed two times a day. The whole show fits in the van which doubles as the set and can therefore be presented in two separate sites across the city. Motosikai is a 40 minute performance that will be accompanied by performances and workshops from local circus performers.

- 3.16 In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:

1. The final locations are determined by health and safety requirements of the performers – there may be some minor changes to final locations;
2. The event will require restricted access to all or a substantial proportion of each facility;
3. The events will be held during the Festival programme which runs 6th to 28th October, likely to be a Saturday and Sunday to maximise family attendance at the event;
4. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy; and
5. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

- 3.17 The proposal is a good fit with the policy objectives of the Council in that it is family friendly work that is participatory and fun. It will animate our public spaces whilst also providing educational learning opportunities for children and young people.
- 3.18 It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000), given the positive economic impact it has for the city, promoting connectivity and attractiveness of the Council assets.
- 3.19 In addition, as part of the programme a special free presentation of the iconic and critically acclaimed sculptural installation, *Poppies: Weeping Window* will be installed at the Ulster Museum. With over 150,000 expected to visit Botanic Gardens to see the Poppies installation, Council outreach officers at the Tropical Ravine are considering additional family activities in the park to maximise visitors' experience of the park. This will be done within existing Council budgets.

Financial & Resource Implications

Finance

- 3.20 Up to £40,000 for the overall programme, from existing Council revenue funds.

Human

- 3.21 Staff may be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and this will be charged to the hirer, in line with the process adopted in previous years.

Asset and Other Implications

- 3.22 Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk to Council assets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.23 The Events Policy for Parks and Leisure facilities and venues was previously screened. It is anticipated that this range of events will deliver a positive impacts for equality and good relations.”

The Committee then considered a report which provided additional information in respect of the funding that each of the three partner organisations received.

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The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that the nature, duration and number of each of the three proposed events differed and it was therefore difficult to compare like for like. He also reminded the Committee that, a corporate strategic review, in respect of the funding of festivals and events, was currently being undertaken and advised that a report on this matter would be submitted to a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Following consideration:

It was moved by Councillor Magennis; and
Seconded by Councillor Austin:

“That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations as outlined and also award additional financial support of £10,000 to Feile an Phobail, to bring it in line with the funding requested for the Belfast International Arts Festival and the Belfast Mela.”

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

Finance

Community Development Grants Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide an update on the Community Development Grants Programme funding allocation based on the interim financial contract arrangements with the Department for Communities.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Note the limited offer of Community Support Grant income from DfC and agree to;**
 - i. extend existing grant contracts to 30 June 2017 to organisations in receipt of Generalist Advice, Capacity and Community Building Revenue grants;**
 - ii. extend existing contracts to non-grant support organisations to 30 June 2017; and**
 - iii. progress small grants contracts for Summer scheme and project grants.**

A further report will be presented to Committee when we receive information from DfC regarding future allocation of funding.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Overview

In the absence of the Budget Act, the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Finance has released interim funding. Council has received its Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities noting an allocation of £351,000 to cover the period 01 April to 30 June 2017. This inhibits Council from offering 12month contracts to organisations and may impact on the implementation of the Small Grants element of our grants programme.

3.2 Council has agreed a budget of £3,061,979.21 towards the delivery of the Community Development Grants Programme 2017/18. The budget is made up from the following sources of funding;

- £1,404,000 from the Department for Communities under the Community Support Programme,
- £1,657,979.20 from Council

3.3 The Community Development Grants Programme contains the following grant Categories:

- Generalist Advice
- Capacity Support
- Community Buildings Revenue
- Small Grants (inc Summer Scheme and Community Development Project Grants)

3.4 The Revenue budget also covers our non grant support for the sector via current financial support arrangements with organisations who deliver services on our behalf across the city in respect of;

- Independently managed community centres
- Anchor Tenants and
- Service Level Agreement with Play Resource Warehouse

3.5 In February 2017, committee agreed that officers would advise Community Development Grant supported organisations that funding contracts will be offered pending Council's receipt of funding from DfC.

3.6 Department for Communities Funding Allocation

Members will be aware that in the absence of a Budget Act, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance will use powers assigned to him under Section 59 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, to release cash to departments on an interim basis and until such times as a Budget is agreed by Ministers and Budget legislation is put in place.

3.7 Council received its Letter of Offer (LOO) towards the Community Support Programme from the Department for Communities on 30 March 2017. The LOO covers the limited 3 month period from the 01 April to 30 June 2017: an allocation of £351,000. This is an emergency response and when a budget is set by Ministers, further funding decisions will then be made. While this is temporary fix, it is critical to sustaining organisations and services.

3.8 Key Issues

- i. It is normal practice for Council to offer annual funding contracts to recipients of the larger grants and those organisations that receive non-grant support. The interim CSP grant income will limit grant extension to the same 3 month period. These organisations rely on Council's funding to deliver and maintain essential services.
- ii. Council is due to make awards under summers scheme and project grants. Given the seasonal nature of projects, any delay in payment of these grants will have a detrimental impact on the provision of summer schemes throughout the city and on the delivery of programmes by community organisations.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

The following is an estimated based on a 3 month allocation to;

– Generalist Advice:	£232,941.38
– Capacity Building:	£176,456.05
– Revenue:	£217,878.36
– Non Grant Support:	£ 80,296.75

Full allocation:	
Summer Scheme:	£177,529.00
Project Grants:	£54,160.00

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out within the report.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

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SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Austin, Copeland, Heading,
Jones and McCabe.

Also attended: Councillor Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director;
Mr. S. Leonard, Environment Health Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Beattie, O'Neill and Nicholl.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Update Presentation

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. R. Hawe (North Region Place Shaper), Mr. D. Marley (Assistant Manager Housing Team) and Mr. I. McCrickard (Belfast Regional Manager), representing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th January, it had, in considering the effect of homelessness, requested an update presentation on how the NIHE addressed homelessness in Belfast.

Mr. Marley commenced by advising that the Housing Executive had a legislative duty to respond to homelessness in accordance with Housing (NI) Order 1988 and in this regard it produced a Homelessness Strategy every 5 years, a new strategy had just been published, 'Ending Homelessness Together' 2017-22.

Mr. Marley drew the Members' attention to the Belfast Region Housing and Homelessness Statistics for 2015/16 and 2016/17. He reported that the Housing Executive was currently implementing a transformation of its frontline services and he proceeded to outline the key priorities of this review as follows:

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- to fundamentally review service delivery to understand services from a customer's perspective;
- to ensure a joined up service to customers which would help to solve housing problems;
- to provide a single point of contact for housing customers;
- to remove the complexity from the service; and
- to provide skills and knowledge to staff to enable them to provide the correct service, first time.

The representative then proceeded to explain how the new case management approach would work in practice:

- customers contacting the NIHE regarding a housing problem were now provided with a Housing Advisor as their single point of contact;
- the Housing Executive Advisor would have the skills and knowledge to look in detail with the customer at their housing options and choices; and
- the Advisor would support customers to achieve their preferred housing option.

He outlined the Housing Executive's ambitions as follows:

- to reduce the incidences of housing crises and prevent homelessness;
- to ensure the customer had all the relevant information to make a choice; and
- to provide improved outcomes for the customer through tenancy sustainment, social and financial inclusion and personal wellbeing.

Mr. Marley concluded the presentation by emphasising the important role of the Housing Executive's various Partners in achieving all of its targets and stressed the need for effective joined-up working to continue, hence the longer term/multi-agency approach being adopted.

A Member highlighted the vulnerability of people who found themselves in a housing crisis situation and therefore welcomed the new measures that were being introduced. He added that he hoped that this new approach would help to deliver a more consistent approach and advice as often this differed greatly from one Housing Officer to another.

The representatives circulated a contact information booklet for Members' Information and the Democratic Services Officer advised that she would ensure this was circulated to all the Elected Members of Council.

The representatives then provided clarification in respect of a number of issues, some of which are set out hereunder, and the NIHE officers undertook to update Members on individual queries which they had raised:

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- how to encourage Housing Associations' to include more mixed tenure housing within their new build schemes;
- the depletion of Housing Executive stock, however, it was noted that this approach also helped to increase mixed tenure housing within areas;
- intimidation cases and how these were monitored;
- the discrepancies in timescales that Housing Executive tenants were given for refurbishment programmes to kitchens and bathrooms; and
- city centre living and regeneration within the context of the Local Development Plan.

Noted.

Belfast Region Programme Summary Report

The Committee noted the contents of the Belfast Region Programme Summary Report which provided information on the Housing Executive's maintenance and upgrading schemes throughout Belfast during 2016/17 and those proposed for 2017/18.

Update on the Social Development Programme 2016/17

The Committee noted the update report tabled regarding the Social Housing Development Programme 2016/17.

Date of Next Meeting

A Member suggested that it would be prudent for the Housing Executive reports to be issued in advance of the meeting and accordingly it was agreed that these would be circulated with the agenda.

The Committee noted that the next quarterly meeting was scheduled to be held at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 12th April, 2017

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, McGimpsey, L. Patterson and Spence; and
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian, Dudgeon,
Hargey, Johnston, Kyle, Magee,
McAteer, McDonough-Brown, Mullan,
O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beattie declared an interest in Item 3a, Presentation from Belfast Power Ltd., in that he was a Member of the Harbour Commission and he did not take part in the discussion.

Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Dorrian, Johnston, Magee, McAteer and Mullan declared an interest in Item 4a, Gasworks Masterplan, in that they were Members of the Planning Committee, and Councillor Boyle declared an interest in the same item in that he was a Member of the Markets Development Committee. Upon receiving advice from the City Solicitor, the above mentioned seven Members left the room for the duration of the discussion on the item.

Matters Referred Back from Council

Notice of Motion - Credit Unions

(Councillor Attwood attended in connection with this item)

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The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion which, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Council had referred, without discussion, to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 3rd April, 2017:

Proposed by Councillor Attwood and
Seconded by Councillor Kyle

“This Council notes the importance of credit unions, as member-owned financial co-operatives, democratically controlled by their members, which ensure people in local communities have access to credit at affordable rates.

The Council notes that there are 158 credit unions in Northern Ireland, with 93 as part of the Irish League of Credit Unions and 42 with the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions.

The Council notes that there is an opportunity, in line with its commitment to develop co-operatives, to develop a partnership/joint venture with credit unions to deliver projects with social value including but not limited to social and affordable housing.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to engage with the credit union movement and investigate innovative models for project delivery.”

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Councillor Attwood was in attendance in relation to the Motion and he was invited to the table.

During discussion, the Committee was advised that a meeting had taken place with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of City Centre Development in relation to the possibilities outlined in the motion.

The Director of Development advised that he was content to engage with the Credit Union movement, given the work that the team carried out in supporting co-operatives.

The Committee agreed that representatives from the Credit Union movement be invited to attend a future meeting.

On-street Car Parking Charges: Response from Minister

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st February, had passed the following motion on On-Street Car Parking Charges, which had been proposed by Councillor Armitage and seconded by Councillor Long:

“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.

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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.”

It was reported that a response had now been received from the former Minister for Infrastructure. In his response, the former Minister advised that, given the limited timeframe in advance of the election, he was unable to attend any additional meetings but that his officials were available to attend any proposed meetings.

The Committee noted the response from the former Minister.

The Committee was informed that TransportNI had recently advised that it was unable to attend the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 10th May or 14th June to present its Spring Report.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to hold a Special meeting, provisionally on Wednesday, 7th June, with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure being invited to attend to discuss the above mentioned transport issues in the City and also to receive the Spring Report from Transport NI.

Presentations

Belfast Power Limited

(Councillor Beattie declared an interest in this item, in that he was a Member of the Harbour Commission and he did not take part in the discussion.)

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that the Department for Infrastructure was responsible for processing the planning application from Belfast Power Limited, given its regional significance, and that the City Solicitor had previously advised that the Council’s Planning Committee would have a consultative role. She reminded those Members who were also Members of the Planning Committee that the City Solicitor had provided advice that he had no objection to them attending the presentation but that it might be appropriate for them to either not take part in any debate or to refrain from voicing opposition or support for the proposal.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. Ciaran Devine, Director of Belfast Power Ltd., and Mr. Ryan McBirney, Project Manager at Strategic Planning, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Devine explained to the Committee that he and his brother, Stephen, had co-founded the parent company Evermore Energy, and also owned Belfast Power Ltd. He advised the Members that Evermore Energy had successfully developed Northern Ireland’s largest renewable energy power station, Lisahally Combined Heat and Power Plant in Londonderry, for £83million. He outlined to the Committee that the company wanted to develop a similar project in Belfast but had found that there was a need for a much more substantial low-carbon power station.

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Mr. McBirney outlined the proposal for their second project, a state-of-the-art, gas-fired power station at the Belfast Harbour Estate which would connect to Northern Ireland's main gas supply at Knocknagoney. Mr. Devine explained to the Members that, when operational, it would generate low-carbon electricity for over 500,000 homes and businesses throughout Northern Ireland.

Mr. Devine explained to the Members that the Belfast Power Station represented a new era in low-carbon energy generation in Northern Ireland and he outlined a number of economic and environmental benefits which it would bring. He outlined that they were currently securing £280million of private investment and that the station would create over 700 jobs during construction and 50 full-time, highly skilled roles when the plant was operational. The Committee was also advised that, when operational, the plant would significantly reduce Northern Ireland's CO2 emissions as well as helping to achieve security of electricity supply.

In response to a Member's question, Mr. Devine advised the Committee that the proposed Power Station would be significantly more flexible than older power stations, in that it could use wind power when available and that it would revert to gas-power at other times to safeguard constant supply.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

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

East Bank Draft Masterplan (Restricted)

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. Chris Birkett and Mr. Andrew Gibbins, Arup Consulting Belfast, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Gibbins outlined to the Members a number of the objectives which they sought to achieve through the transformation of the East Bank area. The Committee was advised that this was an integrated strategy to guide the future development of the area, co-ordinate individual investments and projects and which would deliver economic, social and environmental benefits.

He reported that the East Bank area provided key access between the east of the city and the city centre but that traffic was often congested and highlighted that there was a real need for improved connectivity.

Mr. Birkett outlined to the Committee a number of phases which would seek to rationalise and rebalance the highway infrastructure, enabling strategic access and transform the pedestrian, cycle and public transport experience. He highlighted to the Members a number of key phases which included the introduction of Belfast Rapid Transit, Queen's Quay highway improvements, the removal of the flyover bridge and the creation of a Bridge End Boulevard. He emphasised to the Committee that the

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development of the Sirocco and Queens Quay sites was pivotal to the achievement of the strategy.

In response to a Member's question regarding car parking provision, Mr. Birkett outlined that they were looking at more sustainable transport options for the site, such as good public transport links and park and ride connections. The Chief Executive added that this would be considered through the Car Parking Strategy.

In response to a further Member's question, the Director of City Centre Development confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the current owners of the Sirocco site in relation to the draft masterplan.

After further discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

Restricted Items

Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan

Please note that, in accordance with Standing Order 47 and Section 41(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Chief Executive has received a valid Call-In requisition signed by 9 members of Council in relation to the following decision.

(Ms. C. Reynolds, Estates Manager, attended in connection with this item)

Upon receiving advice from the City Solicitor, Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Boyle, Dorrian, Johnston, Magee, McAteer and Mullan declared an interest and left the room for the duration of the item. The City Solicitor identified that a planning application directly impacted by this item was scheduled for hearing by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 April 2017.

The Estates Manager advised the Committee that the former Development Committee, at its meeting in June 2005, had approved the appointment of Consarc to draw up draft proposals for the potential use of 6.5 acres of the former Gasworks site, adjoining the Gasworks Business Park, which had become known as the Gasworks Northern Fringe.

She advised the Members that, since the 2009 Masterplan, the adjoining NIE site on Stewart Street had recently been secured for the site's inclusion in the Council's Masterplanning exercise. She provided the Committee with an overview of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and reminded the Committee that Consarc had been re-appointed in April 2015 to engage with the local community to revise the Masterplan, taking account of the introduction of a much wider housing requirement in the BMAP housing designation.

She reported that, following engagement with various statutory agencies, including the Planning Service, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, TransportNI and

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further community consultation, Consarc had since provided a revised Masterplan for the Gasworks Northern Fringe.

She outlined that, taking account of both the BMAP housing designation and the original Masterplan's exclusive commercial proposals, the revised draft Masterplan proposed the introduction of residential uses to produce mixed-use proposals.

The Members were advised that the revised plan had been submitted to the Planning Service through the Pre-Application Discussions (PAD) process in order to establish the requirement for further consultants reports which would be needed to support any further submission to secure a formal outline planning permission.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that she wished to amend the recommendations within in the report to the following:

The Committee is requested to:

1. note the updated position in relation to the emerging Gasworks Northern Fringe Concept Masterplan;
2. note that a pre-planning process was being pursued; and
3. agree to submit an Outline Planning Application for mixed use development, including a PAD process.

During discussion, a Member expressed concern that a planning application within the Gasworks Northern Fringe site would be considered by the Planning Committee the following day, despite the Masterplan having not yet been completed. Whilst the Member stated that she did not want the entirety of the site to be used for social housing, she expressed concern that the application did not align with the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and was contrary to advice from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Hargey
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara

That the Committee agrees not to submit an Outline Planning Application as the Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan has not yet been completed

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

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to:

1. note the updated position in relation to the emerging Gasworks Northern Fringe Concept Masterplan;
2. note that a pre-planning process was being pursued; and

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3. submit an Outline Planning Application for mixed use development, including a PAD process.

**International Events – UEFA Super Cup, 2019
and World Irish Dancing Championships, 2022**

The Director of Development reminded the Members that major events required a long lead-in time in terms of the bid development process and the preparations associated with hosting large events. He reported that there were two upcoming international events over the next five years which had specific time-bound requirements due to bidding deadlines, namely, the UEFA Super Cup in August, 2019 and the World Irish Dancing Championships from 9th – 18th April, 2022.

The Director outlined that, while a review was ongoing of the funding of events and festivals in the city, the rationale for bringing these requests to the Committee ahead of the finalisation of the review was that the bid deadlines for both events were ending in the next few months. He highlighted that, given the Council's previous successes in hosting major international events, engagement with partners to mobilise the Team Belfast approach to these events was important to allow sufficient time to be given to developing a strong and compelling bid.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed to provide in-principle support, of up to £200,000, towards the 2019 UEFA Super Cup and up to £400,000 towards the 2022 World Irish Dancing Championships, subject to the availability of resources, and authorised officers to commence with the bidding process for these events; and
2. noted that, should Belfast be short-listed for these events, a report would be brought back to the Committee to secure the relevant resources associated with hosting the event in the City.

EU Capital of Culture - Update

The Director of Development provided the Committee with an overview of the due diligence which had been completed on the opportunity to submit a joint bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to become the UK host of the European Capital of Culture 2023.

He outlined details of the bidding process and advised the Members that there were six assessment criteria which had been set by the European Commission, which included a demonstration of a long-term cultural Strategy, a European Dimension and Cultural and Artistic Content.

The Director outlined to the Committee a number of the potential risks which such a large scale event carried and advised the Committee that, after consideration of each of the risks, many had been identified as manageable given the extensive experience, knowledge and capacity within both Councils.

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The Members were advised that an options matrix had been completed and that a joint bid between Derry and Belfast, branded as Belfast-Derry or the Derry-Belfast bid had emerged as the strongest option.

After discussion the Committee:

1. noted the update on the progress to advance a joint bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to host the European Capital of Culture in 2023; and
2. noted that officers were currently working on the development of a workshop for Members and would send out invites and additional information as soon as possible.

Request to Present to Committee

McCadden Design - May Committee

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from McCadden Design at its meeting on 10th May on the design concepts for the Belfast brand.

Growing Business and the Economy

Committee Plan - Summary Feedback of Workshop

The committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **The Committee held its annual planning workshop on 6th March for Members to shape the upcoming work and agenda of the Committee and the new Corporate Plan, informed by the Council’s budget setting process for 2017/18. The workshop also provided the opportunity to consider the role that the Committee will play in ensuring that the Council’s contribution to delivering the Agenda is maximised.**
- 1.2 **The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth. 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. It sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus collaborative efforts on economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:**
 - **Our city is home to an additional 70,000 new residents**
 - **Our urban economy supports 50,000 more jobs**
 - **There will be a 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods**

- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential

1.3 The Committee has already noted that delivering the ambitions 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 appropriate support, services and programmes to grow the economy, improve the skills base, support city development and enhance the ‘lived experience’ in the city.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report and provide any additional comments;
- Agree that officers use this information to compile a revised Committee Plan for 2017-18, for consideration at its meeting in May/June 2017;
- Agree to receive a presentation from the West Belfast Area Learning Community (ALC) at an upcoming meeting of the Committee outlining activities to improve educational attainment in the wider west Belfast area.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

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 With input from Prof Neil Gibson (UUEPC) the workshop provided an opportunity to set the Council’s ambitions and Committee’s progress and priorities within the current economic context and outlook. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Review the performance and achievements against the Committee Plan in 2016/17; and
- Translate the priorities of the Belfast Agenda into a work plan for the Committee to deliver in 2017/18.
- Appendix 1 contains a copy of the presentation on the Economic Outlook (Ulster University Economic Policy Centre - UUEPC) and the remaining presentations are in Appendix 2.

3.3 It has been recognised that to deliver on the city ambitions there is a need for a step change in what we do and how we work. The Committee has agreed to an uplift in 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, including the Belfast Works Programme which focuses on developing skills and employment opportunities for those furthest from the labour market and the Smart Cities Framework. This was supported at the workshop which emphasised the importance of supporting city growth, regeneration and community involvement to demonstrate that the Council is directly leading and delivering on inclusive growth for Belfast.

3.4 The key priorities and issues raised at the workshop are summarised under the priorities in the draft Belfast Agenda.

3.5 **Growing the Economy – Summary Key Priorities and Issues**

The following key priorities and issues were highlighted:

- Create a comprehensive & co-ordinated Business Support Service
- Develop an ‘Enterprise Framework’ to encourage a culture of enterprise to make Belfast a great place to do business
- New ways of doing business – collaborative opportunities, partnerships, investments , building on what works ‘Plug & Play’
- Continue to invest in the City Delegation to MIPIM
- Attract and support investment into Belfast by establishing a City Investment Advice Service (and concierge service)
- Build on the city’s relationships across the UK, Republic of Ireland and internationally to promote and position the city as a place to do business, invest in and visit
- Use the expertise of the Economic Forum to support a balanced approach to investment and targeting; e.g.

promoting and supporting existing high-value, large employment sectors (such as retail and manufacturing) versus small scale sectors with high potential (such as Cyber Security) and; to consider alternative economic models that may enhance inclusive growth

- 3.6 The Committee recognised that attracting investment and high value sectors to Belfast generates wider city and community economic benefits. However, the need to strengthen efforts to reduce economic inequalities and tackle poverty was emphasised and would assist in defining the Council's approach to inclusive growth. Discussion also highlighted the value of building strong relationships with the business sector and engaging communities in designing programmes and partnerships to grow the economy.

3.7 Working & Learning

The following key priorities and issues were highlighted:

- Develop the employability pipeline, including Belfast Works, and build on the 'academy model' focusing on key employment sectors and opportunities created by growth in hospitality/retail and social care
- Build stronger links with schools, communities and families to address educational inequalities and support the transition to employment; e.g. create mechanisms to recognise and share learning from those schools that are performing well; use community facilities for educational workshops, careers advice etc.
- Engage with and understand the experience of those who are furthest from the labour market to identify realistic solutions and pathways to employment
- Leverage the power of the city's anchor institutes to maximise social clauses, opportunities through public procurement and the supply chain as well as employment opportunities
- Create a culture where 'all jobs matter' and are valued

- 3.8 The Committee reinforced the need to address the skills and employability challenges within the city and supported the proposal to seek enhanced devolution of powers and finances through a City Growth Deal to support an integrated skills and employability programme. However, the Council's key role in engaging with communities was emphasised in addressing and bridging gaps to secure regeneration as well as growth. A City Growth Deal should include investment in communities.

3.9 City Development

The following key priorities and issues were highlighted:

- Deliver the key regeneration projects in the City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy in a way that creates local opportunities and connects the city and its communities e.g. the Linen Quarter and Transport Hub; North East Quarter; Titanic Quarter and East Bank etc
- Animate the city through a targeted programme of events, activities and interventions including interim uses to revitalise the city as a welcoming, social, cultural and liveable city
- Develop a ‘liveability strategy’ to encourage city centre living, support diversity and connections to existing city centre communities
- Boost the City’s reputation as a visitor destination for leisure and business tourists – enhancing the cultural offer, delivering the Integrated Tourism Strategy and connecting the infrastructure e.g. Belfast Waterfront, community tourism trails, Titanic Belfast etc.
- Create a new world class visitor attraction in the city – the ‘Belfast Story’ visitor attraction
- Deliver the city car parking strategy to increase connectivity and accessibility
- Promote and position Belfast as a place to do business, invest and visit – delivering the place positioning strategy and building on the successful ‘Team Belfast’ approach at MIPIM

3.10 Regeneration powers are critical to developing and growing the city, combined with the need to improve the city’s infrastructure (sewage, roads, digital etc) in order to service an increased city population. As a landowner the Council also has a role in leading by example to regenerate and make better use of its own sites. The housing market and housing needs were considered vital to promoting city centre living and growing the population. Central to success is connecting and engaging with communities to understand the lived experience of the city to ensure that strategies and plans address the issues that matter to people.

3.11 A holistic approach to designing and developing interventions, programmes and plans will be key to tackling the city’s challenges and issues in a way that makes a real difference to the quality of life and experience of the city. Increasing the city’s competitiveness is vital to deliver on the

Belfast Agenda and will require a partnership approach at all levels to ensure that communities are connected to the opportunities for growth and benefit from that growth. The key elements of the Committee work plan over the next 12 months will therefore be based on the following:

- **City growth, regeneration and development;**
- **Further developing the skills and employability programme;**
- **Developing and delivering a comprehensive small business service;**
- **Revisiting the transfer of regeneration powers;**
- **Engaging and connecting communities;**
- **Understanding the city– getting beneath the statistics**
- **Exploring new ways of working to co-design and co-deliver solutions;**
- **New approach to events, festivals and culture**

- 3.12 This approach will be vital to grow and develop the city in an inclusive way that benefits all communities. A Committee Plan will be presented to Committee in June.**

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.13 The Committee Plan will be developed in the context of the cash limits previously agreed by Committee and approved by Council in February 2017.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.14 Programmes and activities contained within the Committee Plan will be subject to appropriate equality and good relations considerations.”**

In response to a Member’s question regarding the promotion of city centre living, the Director of City Centre Development reminded the Committee that this issue would be covered in the upcoming study visit to Leeds and that she would circulate details of an upcoming seminar on that topic to the Members.

In response to a further Member’s question regarding the potential impact that Brexit might have on the City, both socially and economically, the Chief Executive advised the Committee that a piece of work in relation to this was ongoing and would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in the coming months. She explained that, pending that Committee’s approval, a report would then be submitted to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Employability and Skills - Annual Workplan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update Members on the work undertaken to date to support employability and skills development in the city;
- Seek Member endorsement and budgetary approval for priority initiatives, set out in 3.10 to be led by the Council in partnership with other organisations with the aim of responding to economic opportunities and addressing key employability and skill challenges.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the employability and skills activities undertaken within the 2016/17 financial year and progress achieved to date;
- Note and approve priority actions identified for development and delivery in 2017/18 and approve expenditure of proposed budgets;
- Agree to development of partnership structures to facilitate the delivery of priority actions where there is alignment of purpose and where there is an opportunity to share resources.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Belfast is a major source of employment not only for the resident population for also for the wider region; over one third of all jobs in Northern Ireland are located within the city. As the economy evolves and becomes more knowledge-based and service industry-focused, it is essential that skills development activity – at all levels – is informed by the needs of the changing marketplace.

3.2 Forecasts suggests that only 1 in 6 of new jobs (16%) in the future will require no or low skills levels (below level 2). At present, more than 30% of the working age population in Belfast fits within this skills profile. The challenge, therefore, is to consider how the current workforce can be skilled up and how the education and skills provision for those not yet in the labour market can be tailored to ensure that there is greater alignment between skills supply and demand.

- 3.3** One of the most significant challenges to the city's economic competitiveness is the high level of economic inactivity. Current figures suggest that this is around 31% of the population that could work but that are not active in the labour market. In some areas of Belfast, this figures rises to more than 40%. The reasons behind these figures are numerous and complex. The group is made up of a number of different 'segments' including students, lone parents and those unable to work due to reasons of ill-health. Changes to the benefits regime mean that there is some protection for these groups up to 2020. However, after that, there will be a much greater focus on trying to move these individuals into the labour market, and there may be benefit penalties for not doing so. Given the geographically-focused nature of these statistics, the impact on local communities could be significant. It is therefore critical that interventions are developed now to support this target group to move towards employment where possible, taking account of the multiple challenges that they may face in moving back into work. There are, of course, a number of interconnected issues that contribute towards an individual's ability to enter the labour market such as; poor health and wellbeing; family culture; lack of or absence of skills; mobility issues; low paid jobs; access to childcare etc.
- 3.4** The long term vision for Belfast, as outlined in the Belfast Agenda includes an ambition to create a successful economy where everyone can reach their potential. To deliver upon this commitment, a twin track approach is required: supporting economic growth but ensuring that that growth is inclusive and that the benefits are accessible across the City. Over the next four years, the Belfast Agenda targets reflect this commitment: ambitious targets for economic growth focusing upon new job creation and private sector investment alongside targets to reduce the economic inactivity rate, increase skill levels and address educational inequalities.
- 3.5** The ambitions of the Belfast Agenda are reflected in wider regional policy including the Draft Programme for Government 2016-21 (PfG) and the NI Industrial Strategy: Economy 2030 (see separate report). Both strategies incorporate commitments to grow the economy whilst also ensuring that growth is undertaken in a sustainable and inclusive manner, benefiting society as a whole. The PfG also highlights the opportunity to develop place-specific approaches by working with Local Government. One of the initiatives proposed is the development of 'Local Works' creating a pathway to employment for those who are economically inactive.

- 3.6** As Members will be aware, approval has been given for Officers to develop a Council-led employability pathway model. This would provide a full programme of support and intervention which would take key client groups from a place where they are not job-ready to gaining employment in jobs that have been identified by developing close working relationships with employers across a range of sectors. The model focuses on an employer-led approach with interventions designed to equip participants with the skills required for specific employers/industries. Given the wide range of target groups and the complexity of issues that they face in finding a job, this model will require significant investment if it is to produce results of the scale that is required to address the economic inactivity challenges set out above. However, there are opportunities to consider how existing programme activity can be re-orientated to deliver elements of the pathway model. Likewise, there is an opportunity to engage with DfC to see how they might contribute resources to delivery in the context of its commitments in the draft PfG to develop a series of 'Local Works' proposals.
- 3.7** While the Council has increased its financial contribution towards employability and skills activity in recent years, it still has a limited budget in relative terms and does not have statutory responsibility for education, employment or skills development activities. As a result, it will be essential to engage with government partners to look at how we can influence their investment in this area. The statutory requirement through Community Planning for partners to work with the Council on an agreed plan for the area provides an unprecedented opportunity to work directly with key private and public sector partners and the employability and skills proposals are high on the list of priorities within the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.8** As Members will be aware, at the 24 June 2016 of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, a ten year Employability and Skills Framework for the city and associated year one action plan were approved. The Framework creates a structure for the delivery of employability and skills commitments contained within the Belfast Agenda. It is focused around four main aims, namely:
- Aim 1: increasing access to employment by supporting development of lower and entry levels skills and by addressing barriers preventing access to jobs;

- Aim 2: generate higher level skills which meet the demands of employers and investors;
- Aim 3: facilitate career progression routes across all skill levels;
- Aim 4: develop a culture of entrepreneurship at all levels.

3.9 Activities delivered in year one have focused on interventions primarily associated with aims 1 and 4 of the framework, in recognition of the scale of challenge in these areas, and given that the Council now has statutory responsibility for entrepreneurship and business start. Key activities delivered to date are outlined in Appendix 1.

3.10 Draft Action Plan – 2017/18

In 2017/18, activities will focus on delivery of the aims of the Employability and Skills Framework as well as the Belfast Agenda's 'Working and Learning' and 'Growing the Economy' priorities. In line with the Employability and Skills Framework aims, the draft programme of activity is set out below:

Aim 1: increasing access to employment by supporting development of lower and entry levels skills and by addressing barriers preventing access to jobs

- Continued support for the five ESF and two match-funded employability projects (as set out in 3.9 above) into their third and final year of delivery targeting the unemployed and economically inactive. Through these projects, it is expected that over 3500 residents will be engaged in the 2017/18 financial year with over 800 progressing into employment. In tandem it is also proposed to independently review all match-funded projects to assess their value for money and alignment to Belfast Agenda and Employability and Skills Framework priorities. The purpose of this review will be to inform the Council's position with regard to a future ESF funding call. Indications from the Department for the Economy suggest that the final call will open for applications in Autumn 2017. Projects will run for a period of three years and will be operational from April 2018. The costs associated with this work will be £240,000.
- Commence phase 1 delivery of the Belfast Employability Pathway Model targeting employers within key sectors including healthcare, retail, construction, hospitality and public sectors.

The pathway will be designed to meet the specific skills requirements of each individual sector and, where applicable, will be designed to avail of existing employability provision such as Council match-funded ESF projects and/or existing FE provision. However, it is recognised that bespoke pathway models and/or additional investment in existing provision may be required to create models of delivery which meet industry needs. This is likely to necessitate new forms of partnership working. It is anticipated that over 250 individuals will be supported into employment through this activity. The costs associated with the development and delivery of the model will be £255,000.

- To address educational underachievement of young people, it is proposed to complete delivery of early engagement interventions for those who are furthest removed from the labour market, based on learning gained through the delivery of sports based pilot projects, expected to complete in summer 2017. Current projects are aiming to engage with over 350 young people who are or are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). Upon completion a review of activity will take place to inform future client groups and optimal approaches for engagement. It is proposed that a new early intervention programme will be developed and is expected to be operational from late Autumn 2017. The costs associated with delivery of the new interventions will be £50,000.

- Feasibility work will be undertaken in this financial year to explore options for the introduction of a 'city pledge' for young people. This is in line with the commitment in the Belfast Agenda to ensure that every young person has a positive destination. This will be part of a research budget of £30,000 that will be used to explore this area of work as well as the review of ESF activity and research into graduate employment/underemployment.

Aim 2: generate higher level skills which meet the demands of employers and investors

- We will work with the major further and higher education institutions to ensure alignment of course provision to meet industry needs. We will do this by engaging with the organisations to share the analysis from our sector development work, for example the emerging Cyber Security Action Plan. The budget allocation for this activity will be met from the sector development plan budget already approved by this Committee
- Through our new Investor Support Service, we will work with Invest NI to engage with new employers to identify specific skills challenges and invest in support services to ensure that there is an adequate skills pipeline
- We will support skills development initiatives within micro and small businesses in order to support staff development and retention. This activity will be supported through our Small Business Support Plan which is also being presented to this Committee for approval.

Aim 3: facilitate career progression routes across all skill levels

- We will continue to work in conjunction with the Department for Communities and the Department for the Economy to organise large scale (city centre-based) and localised job fairs, including the Skills NI career fair. The costs associated with this work will be £20,000.
- We will work with employers as part of the employability pathway to explore the potential for 'next steps' training for individuals once they access the entry level employment opportunities. This work will help to create ongoing demand for the entry level jobs and will ensure that individuals feel the financial benefit of moving into employment. The costs associated with this work are part of the budget set aside for the employability pathway work.
- We will continue to support the Council's ambition of becoming a Learning City through the ongoing work

with the Belfast Strategic Partnership's Lifelong Learning Group and exploring the potential of becoming a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning.

Aim 4: develop a culture of entrepreneurship at all levels

There is more detail on the enterprise support activities within the separate report on Small Business Support Activity that is being presented to this Committee for endorsement. However, some of the highlights include:

- Working with Derry City and Strabane District Council on a City Business Start-up programme, focusing on key growth areas across both cities
- Targeted outreach activity for specific areas and key target groups: we will work closely with locally-based organisations to develop bespoke enterprise outreach sessions for key groups such as women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, young people. This will sit alongside our mainstream provision.

3.11 Across all of these activities, the theme of *inclusive growth* will be critical. We will continue to work to drive maximum social and economic benefit of investment decisions by the Council and other Anchor Institutions by implementing a 'Social Value Procurement Framework'. We will also work closely with colleagues in the Planning and Place Department to look at opportunities for generating opportunities for employment-related developer contributions.

3.12 Officers are also currently working on a number of education-related activities which will look at how the challenges around low skills and poor educational attainment can be addressed much earlier in a young person's life. Details of these proposals will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for endorsement.

3.13 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The recommended budget allocations for each of the elements set out in 3.10 are summarised below. These are already contained within existing revenue estimates.

Please note: enterprise support activities (Aim 4) will be supported from the Small Business budget – see separate report:

Match funding of 5 ESF projects and 2 other	£240,000
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Wednesday, 12th April, 2017**

employability projects. Projects to be funded will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESF projects: LEMIS + (£80k), Springboard (£35K), Women’s Tec (£35K) Women in Business (£15K) and Workforce (£25K) - Non-ESF projects: Shankill Women’s Centre (£25K) and Lenadoon (£25k) 	
Belfast Employability Pathway Model	£255,000
Early engagement interventions	£50,000
Career progression activities	£20,000
Research activities: ESF independent review, city pledge and graduate under/unemployment	£30,000

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Programmes have and will continue to be designed to help remove barriers to participation and promote equality of opportunity.”

During discussion, a Member asked how the Council could assist those young people who were furthest from the job market to develop entrepreneurial skills outside of a classroom setting. The Director advised the Committee that his department had worked with Catalyst Inc. on a number of events called ‘Nights of Ambition’, which brought 160 16-18 year old schoolchildren to an event in St. George’s Market which enabled them to hear from and engage with entrepreneurs in an informal setting. The Director advised that he would be happy to look at engaging with the Youth and Community Sectors in relation to encouraging similar schemes for those groups.

A further Member suggested that Principals from a number of local schools be invited in to discuss the significant disparity in attainment levels between different schools.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Small Business Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed direction of travel for Council-led Small Business Support activity, focusing on actions to be delivered in the 2017/18 financial year. It sets out the thematic work areas which have been

framed by the NI Programme for Government, the Industrial Strategy for NI and The Belfast Agenda. The work programme significantly contributes to the Council's priorities of Growing the Economy, Working and Learning, City Development and Living Here. To ensure that activity can commence as soon as possible, this report also seeks delegated authority for approval of tenders to support early delivery.

- 1.2 This report should be read in conjunction with the Employability and Skills year two Action Plan report, also tabled to this Committee. Members should note that the Starting a Business work stream delivers against Aim 4 of the Employability and Skills Framework 'to develop a culture of entrepreneurship at all levels'.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the work programme for 2017/18 as detailed within the report
- Approve the budgets referenced against activity in Section 3 of the report (reference 3.5–3.9). A summary of the budgets is available on modern.gov.
- Give delegated authority to the Director of Development to proceed with procurement to deliver the scope of services set out in this report, subject to engagement with the Central Procurement Service and Legal Services.

3.0 **Main report**

- 3.1 Officers have been prioritising programmes and activity for 2017/18 financial year to deliver against key performance indicators identified in the Programme for Government (PfG), the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland and the Belfast Agenda. Primarily, these indicators relate to Jobs and Business Productivity. Members will be aware that the draft Belfast Agenda four year stretch goals to 2021 aim to:

- Create 15,000 new jobs;
- Attract £1 billion private sector Foreign Direct Investment;
- Support 4,000 small business start-ups;
- Double the economic value of out-of-state tourism; and
- Welcome 1.5 million overnight tourist stays per year.

3.2 The Council delivers a range of business support activities focused on Starting a Business, Growing a Business and Investing in Belfast. In 2016/17, this work helped deliver the following:

- 584 new businesses established
- 900 new jobs created (from start-ups and business growth)
- 2200 people supported through our business support activity
- 20 social enterprises established.

Priority activity for 2017/18 under these three themes will include:

3.3 Starting a Business

The Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland includes a commitment to driving inclusive, sustainable growth. It contains the ambition to be a more enterprising region with a culture of new business development. It aims to grow private sector output by 35%, creating 80,000 new jobs by 2030. Within the same time period it aims to put Northern Ireland in the top three most competitive small advanced economies increasing the annual spend of R&D to £1.5bn. Belfast accounts for 20% of the overall population, but 31% of all jobs in Northern Ireland. Its success will therefore be critical to achieving these ambitions.

3.4 The proportion of people who think they have the skills to start a business is lower than other UK regions although research also suggests that businesses remain in existence for longer than many other parts of the UK. Fear of failure is also significantly higher and starting a business is not viewed as a good career choice by more Northern Ireland residents than in most other parts of the UK.

3.5 In 2016/2017, Belfast City Council supported 584 start-ups, supporting around 650 jobs. In 2017/2018 we aim to increase this figure to 697 start-ups. It is proposed that this will be achieved via the additional support activities for 2017/2018 noted below.

- **Investment in additional enterprise outreach activity:** Officers have developed a programme of enterprise outreach and engagement activity to target under-represented groups across the City who that facing specific barriers in starting a business. A budget of £85,000 has been set aside for this work.

- **Development of an enterprise framework for Belfast:** Officers recently met with local enterprise development stakeholders (12 organisations represented) to consider how the challenging business start-up targets set out in the Belfast Agenda could be achieved. The framework will consider where Belfast needs to aim, if it is going to benchmark itself against cities that have a vibrant start-up scene. It will also consider the 'mix' of businesses that is likely to emerge (sectors etc.) and will outline the support structures required to bring these forward so that the speed of development is increased and the business productivity is improved. The costs associated with the development of the framework are £20,000.
- **Financial incentivisation and cashflow management:** from our engagement with new-start businesses and young companies, one of the challenges that they constantly reference is access to finance and cash flow. We also understand that, particularly in the early days of a business, access to finance can be critical. Banks are often averse to lending at this point, particularly if a company or an individual has no trading history. We are currently exploring a financial incentivisation scheme for new start businesses. This would work alongside mainstream support and is likely to be focused on individuals from specific target groups (e.g. NEETS), particular geographical areas (e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal Areas) or business sectors. We are currently carrying our due diligence work on this funding model to ensure that there is no deadweight (i.e. that it acts as an incentive as opposed to supporting those that would already set up anyway). Likewise, it needs to add value to other financial supports available and should not distort the market. At this point, we have set aside £100,000 for this incentivisation scheme in the financial year 2017/18.
- **A Pilot City Business Start-up Project:** In addition to the mainstream regional business start-up programme ('Go for It') Derry City and Strabane District Council and Belfast City Council aim to pilot a longer-term intervention aimed at City based start-ups. This programme will target key City Centre based business start-up sectors across both Cities such as Fashion, Tourism, Markets, Food and Retail. It will reduce risks associated with start-up by providing sector specific mentoring, incentivised start-up such

as access to a commercial kitchen for food businesses or unit rental voucher schemes for areas of the City with high vacancy rates for retail. This will be a one year learning pilot and the impact will be assessed for consideration of future ERDF funding for a potential future three year programme. We have set aside £100,000 for this programme in the current financial year and this will be matched by £100,000 from Derry City and Strabane District Council.

- Targeted support programme for high potential start-ups: this Committee previously approved support for a new High-Growth Start-Up programme aimed at new (0-2 year old) businesses in the City that have the potential to grow, employ staff and consider opportunities to export (Venture for Success). This programme is currently being procured and will be in place by Summer 2017. The programme will focus on businesses operating in a number of key sectors that have the greatest potential in terms of higher level salaries, alignment to FDI and potential to be supported by research excellence at the Universities. These include:
 - Creative and Digital Industries
 - Financial and Professional Services
 - Advanced Engineering
 - Clean Technology
 - ICT and Electronics
 - Life and Health Sciences.
- Delivery of mainstream start-up programme 'Go for It': the Council is continuing to deliver the Regional Business Start-Up Programme (Go For It) via the interim contract with Oxford Innovation for Business Start-up and Growth Services. This is being delivered successfully in partnership with the Local Enterprise Agency Network until such times as the new regional programme is procured (estimated to be June 2017). Officers have liaised with each of the Local Enterprise Agencies delivering this programme and they are in agreement to continue with the interim approach until such times as a new regional programme can proceed. Belfast City Council is nearing completion of a Management Information System which has been developed for Councils to collectively monitor business start-up activity across NI under the programme. This programme and associated budget were previously approved by the Committee.

- Officers are currently supporting private sector businesses in the Tech start-up sector who independently wish to set up a collective forum to help support and shape future support provision in this area. There are no budgets associated with this activity. Officers are facilitating events and providing in-kind support through their time to get the projects off the ground.
- Other key services such as graduate business start-up and social enterprise/co-operative start-up will continue throughout 2017/2018. 50 students will be engaged in enterprise awareness activity under the graduate start-up programme. Additional support will be given to 30 of the 50 graduate entrepreneurs to further develop their businesses, resulting in the creation of 10 new jobs. The Social Enterprise and Co-operatives programme will engage 50 individuals/organisations in social enterprise/co-operative awareness activities and provide 30 individuals or organisations with support to establish a Social Enterprise or Co-operative resulting in the creation of 32 new jobs.

3.6 Growing a Business:

A recent Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) attitudinal survey identified a gap in support for businesses who are in between start-up and growth phase. The 5 main barriers to business growth were recorded as cash flow/getting paid (48%); taxes (corporation/VAT) (45%), Competition (43%), Business Rates (42%) and cost of promotion and marketing (40%). 27% of respondents stated that there was a lack of suitable business support.

- 3.7 The latest Tech City Report 2017 details that Belfast has seen almost as impressive growth figures as London for the five year period 2011 – 2015. Belfast has seen a 37% increase in the number of Tech Businesses emerge compared to London's 42%. Access to high quality graduates, a strong digital tech community, low cost of living and desirable property prices make Belfast an attractive place to start and grow a digital tech company. It is important to note, however, that the growth in Belfast has been from a much lower base than in the case of London. To help maintain this momentum, the following additional support activities for 2017/2018 are proposed:

- **Increasing access to public procurement opportunities:** At a previous meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members approved a programme to help companies access the opportunities arising from public sector procurement. Intertradelreland have now offered to provide Belfast businesses with access to similar support through their existing support programme. This will include workshops on key procurement issues, input from procurement professionals in key public sector organisations (including Belfast City Council) and access to Meet the Buyer events. This will mean that we will still achieve the original targets as set out (30 participating companies each year) but the financial contribution will be significantly less than the £60,000 already approved by the Committee. This approach has been reviewed and approved by the Council's Legal Services and it is intended to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Intertradelreland for a period of 3 years for a core programme. The budget for procurement support in 2017/18 is £36,000. The remainder of the budget originally set aside for this work has been reallocated to export growth support (see below).

- **Supporting exports and international trade activity:** Officers are proposing to collaborate with NI Chamber of Commerce through membership and corporate sponsorship which will position the Council to positively engage with the private sector and avail of the mainstream support available to Chamber members. This will also provide links to the International Chamber of Commerce Network which will support the International Trade and Export Activity and may include engagement in NI Chamber events and missions. This partnership will also involve engagement with Invest NI to ensure that companies can have access to their suite of programmes to help them develop their export potential. There will be an opportunity to consider how this tri-partite arrangement can make use of the World Trade Centre licence which the Council still has access to and which provides a link to more than 300 similar centres all across the world. Another strand to this work will be enabling businesses to access business opportunities created through linkages with Belfast's Sister Cities. The budget for this work is £86,000.

- **Growth sector support:** The Centre for Secure Information Technology (CSIT) who presented to a previous Committee meeting is continuing to develop a Cyber Security strategy for Northern Ireland. Officers will work closely with the sector and delivery partners, to contribute to the achievement of actions contained within the draft strategy. We are also working with Invest NI and other partners on action plans for other growth sectors and these will be presented to the Committee in the course of the coming year. These sectors will include Financial Technology (Fin Tech), Legal Services, Life & Health Sciences and Creative Industries. The combined budget for this work is £145,000.

- **Creative and Tech Belfast development and profiling:** The Output Belfast brand has developed considerably over the past three years. It has become synonymous with the City's interactive, convergence and music sectors. Officers propose to work more strategically with our public sector sponsors such as Invest NI, Tourism Ireland, Tourism NI and Generator NI and private promoters such as Digital DNA, BelTech, TechXplore and Audio Visual Arts Conference to collectively deliver a programme of activity throughout 2017/18. Activity under the banner of 'Output Belfast' will include further development of our presence at SXSW in 2018 and will have the dual purpose of showcasing Belfast talent and providing capability support to business participants. Austin City Council has agreed to collaborate with Belfast City Council in showcasing joint tech business collaborations at SXSW in 2018 and we will invest in specialist support to prepare businesses to maximum advantage of the opportunities presented. Officers are also engaging with Generator NI (the Industry support body for music) to support an Output Belfast presence at MIDEM in Cannes and The Great Escape in Brighton throughout 2017 /18. These are key international events and they provide an opportunity to profile the City and its business and cultural assets in a way that reflects the emerging Place Positioning work. The budget for work is £110,000.

- **Development of new business accelerator models:** one of the current challenges for the business base in Belfast is the need to increase the number of high growth businesses. These companies need dedicated and specific support to move them to the next level.

We have explored some models, including an accelerator model developed in our Sister City, Boston. 'Mass Challenge' is a no-equity accelerator which brings a cohort of businesses on a three to four months intensive programme. Participating companies receive support including office space, intensive training, world-class mentoring, access to in-kind benefits. In this model, they also compete for a share of more than \$2M in equity-free prizes globally. Mass Challenge currently has accelerators in UK, Boston, Israel, Mexico and Switzerland and are interested in exploring the NI marketplace. If it was to proceed, this accelerator would complement existing Council support activities, such as the Innovation Factory. It would also support the work of other activities, such as Start Planet, Propel and E-Spark. A budget of £60,000 has been set aside for this work, but it is likely to require additional investment from other sources.

- Provision of generic business growth support: The Committee has already agreed to support the Council's generic business growth programme. This will be funded by ERDF and will provide targeted business mentoring to any business at the post-start stage with an ambition to grow, regardless of their sector. This support will provide a seamless transfer from the existing Start Up support programmes and the level of mentoring time available will be commensurate with the growth potential of the business. The budget for this piece of work is £46,000 net to Council and will benefit from £104,000 income from ERDF and Invest NI.

- Innovation Factory development: The Council will continue to work closely with the Innovation Factory operator to ensure that we remain on track to meet our occupancy and income targets. A report to the March Committee noted the key performance indicators for the year 2 business plan for the centre. By March 2018, the Innovation Factory is projected to have an average occupancy level of 24% and should be well on the way to achieving the job creation target of 187 jobs by 2020.

3.8 Investing in Belfast:

Members will be aware that the Council has been engaging much more significantly in international activity over the last number of years. The review of the International Relations Framework identified the need to focus on a number of themes

in key locations. This included business opportunities: both from FDI and also trade development opportunities. Many of the trade and export development opportunities are set out in the 'Growing a Business' section above.

- 3.9 Members previously agreed that, in order to shape the Investor Support Service that the Council may develop in conjunction with other partners, a research piece should be commissioned to identify the optimal approach and structure of the service. OCO Global have now been appointed to undertake this commission. This work is scheduled to be completed by June 2017 and a report will be brought back to Committee on completion. It will set out the menu of support to be provided as part of the Council's Investor Support and Concierge Services. The budget for this work was already approved by this Committee. A budget of £90,000 has been set aside for delivery of support activities in 2017/18.

3.10 Finance and Resource Implications

- Financial: The budgets for each of the individual support elements are set out in the body of the report 3.5 – 3.9. A summary of the proposed budgets is attached at Appendix 1. These are already contained within existing revenue estimates.
- Human Resources: Management are currently working with the Human Resources Team to ensure that there is access to the appropriate resources and skill sets to deliver the additional activity.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

We are currently undertaking research to inform levels of under-represented groups in entrepreneurship and business start activity across Belfast. Marketing activity and support will be targeted to encourage increased participation by under-represented groups. Tailored support will be adopted where possible including interpretive services, translation services and specific support for persons with a disability as necessary."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Industrial Strategy - Consultation Response

The Committee agreed the draft response to the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Economy 2030), a copy of which was available [here](#) on the Council's website, and noted that it would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in April for its approval.

Cinemagic - Request for Funding

The Director of Development advised the Committee that Cinemagic was an organisation which worked with young people to develop skills within the growing film and television sector.

He outlined that Cinemagic had recently been working on a number of projects across Belfast, including activities focused on the Urban Villages areas of the City and, to date, had engaged with 30 youth groups and schools in all areas of the city. The young people had created original films from idea generation and script development right through to casting, production co-ordination, directing and cinematography, having shadowed professionals in each of these specialisms.

The Director highlighted that Cinemagic's ethos was to ensure that the young people accessing these opportunities were predominantly those from the more deprived neighbourhoods.

The Committee was advised that, in June 2017, Cinemagic planned to bring a group of young people from the west coast of the U.S.A. to Belfast for a collaborative project with young people from Belfast. He explained that they would work together to produce a film to share their experiences of living in their City environments and engaging around their hopes and ambitions for the future.

The Director outlined to the Members that the overall cost of the programme would be an estimated £32,000. The Committee was advised that Cinemagic had successfully secured £17,000 from The Ireland Funds to support costs associated with supporting the international visitors and were requesting a contribution of £15,000 from the Council towards the wider programme costs. He advised the Committee that the funding was available from within existing budgets.

The Committee:

1. noted the request to support a joint educational project between young people from Belfast and their counterparts from west coast USA in Summer 2017; and
2. approved a financial allocation of £15,000 towards the costs of the programme.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

MIPIM Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report the outcome of Belfast’s delegation to the MIPIM international property exhibition in March 2017, and to set out key recommendations to support future delivery.**

2.0 Overview and Recommendations

- 2.1 The 2017 delegation built on the success of 2016, with a larger and more cohesive city partnership, and a stronger investment proposition. Belfast is now firmly on the radar of investors and developers who had not previously considered the city as a location for doing business.**

- 2.2 The Belfast Agenda highlights the Council’s ambition to attract 1 billion of investment into the city, along with medium term goals to develop 1.5m sq of Grade A Offices, and 2,500 hotel bed spaces by 2021. Delivering this ambitious agenda will require a further step change in how we position and promote the city. Committee are therefore asked to consider the following recommendations:**

- I. Authorise officers to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand at MIPIM 2018 to an area of higher footfall.**
- II. Approve in principle that the existing £60,000 investment be enhanced, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at later Committee.**
- III. Authorise officers to commence procurement for consultancy support for programming, event management, communications, and design.**

3.0 Key Outcomes

- 3.1 In February 2017 Belfast secured its first major success from last year’s delegation, with an announcement from Signature Living to bring forward 5 new hotels in the city, including a George Best themed hotel. This was quickly followed through with the purchase of the Crumlin Road Court House, which Signature intends to develop as a four star hotel.**

- 3.2 Council are still progressing conversations with investors and developers first engaged in 2016. However, this has now been supplemented by meetings with an additional 20 financial institutions and investors that we engaged last month, along with 350 contacts collated overall. Of particular note are meetings with potential investors into the new Transport Hub, including those who would have the scale, track record and expertise to consider investment into the adjacent 12-acre regeneration site, Weaver’s Cross.**

City Delegation & Events Programme

- 3.3 A total of 79 people attended MIPIM as part of the Belfast delegation (up from 53 in 2016) with 38 organisational sponsors contributing £240,350 of private finance (up from 23 sponsors contributing £163,000 in 2016). This represents a 50% increase in one year and highlights the success of the strong public-private partnership that has been created across the city. It is worth noting that the Council contribution of £60,000, whilst vital for leveraging wider support, was only 20% of the combined budget, thus providing excellent value for money for the rate payer.
- 3.4 The enhanced delegation now includes a wide cross-section of interests, including developers, investors, banks, property agents, professional services, universities and government bodies. The collaborative approach adopted by Council has opened up more opportunities to meet investors and developers through partnership networks.
- 3.5 Belfast's pitch for 2017 was focused around seven key pillars: talent, tax, technology, location, high growth clusters, track record and quality of life. These were woven into a narrative involving 20 presentations on stand including:
- *Home of Thrones*: to highlight the unique success and strength of our creative industries.
 - *City of Millennials*: focusing on young people, and the opportunities to study, work and live in the city.
 - *Connected City*: highlighting the success of FDI, in particular technology investment.
 - *Ready for the World*: showcasing international events held in Belfast, with particular focus on the joint bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup.
 - *The Business of Tourism*: outlining the outstanding success of this growing sector, and the investment opportunities going forward.
- 3.6 Belfast City Council also had the opportunity to attend a number of wider conference events. These included an International Waterfront City Summit; the Estates Gazette City Vision Panel; the Department for Trade Regional Cities event. Members took part in high profile roundtable discussions, and the Chief Executive delivered a key note presentation highlighting anticipated opportunities in Belfast following Brexit.

- 3.7** A series of eye-catching events helped animate the stand and attracted significant external interest; including the use of the Throne from Game of Thrones which attracted over 2,000 delegates. This success reinforces the need to create high profile marketing initiatives for future years.
- 3.8** Feedback from the delegation was extremely positive. Participants were impressed by the leadership and organization provided by Council, and the quality of speakers and events. They confirmed that having the structure of the stand and organisation allowed them to get on with 'doing business' out at MIPIM, which helped leverage the impact that Belfast was able to make.
- 3.9** A comprehensive survey will be conducted as part of the contract of the existing appointed consultants in early April, to collate and consider delegate feedback in more detail. However, the overarching feedback from the delegation was that 2017 was more successful than 2016; and that we must keep pushing our city forward to international audiences as a collaborative group.

Media Strategy

- 3.10** Over 90 press articles about Belfast have been published (up from 29 last year), and this is likely to increase with anticipated features in trade and business press. We also issued 1,194 tweets and retweets in 10 days around the event, with 2.38m impressions achieved (almost 10 times higher than 2016). The overall financial and reputational value is currently being researched to quantify the media coverage achieved.
- 3.11** Five principal releases were made during the event: relocation of HMRC, Citi expansion, Signature Living hotel Investment, support for Belfast co-hosting Rugby World Cup and the DoF Investment Fund Announcement. These were a significant driver in generating interest in Belfast from print, broadcast, trade and online media.
- 3.12** Delegate communications were supported by a specially developed Belfast App, which highlighted key events and contact information. This was accessed by the majority of delegates and generated peak traffic of over 400 views per day. In addition the Belfast proposition was featured in a comprehensive brochure, which profiled every sponsor in the delegation.
- 3.13** The build up to MIPIM 2017 also enjoyed significant impact. Two key note events were held, a marketing event at the

former Belfast Telegraph building in December 2016 that attracted almost 100 potential delegates; and promotion of the Council's wider Go To Market Strategy at the Belfast Waterfront in February 2017. This attracted over 150 people and generated a number of positive broadcast features about investment in Belfast, and the physical development of the city.

- 3.14 The positive messaging about the city, which is permeating the MIPIM audience more deeply year on year, is changing both indigenous perceptions about Belfast and encouraging an international audience to start looking at the city for investment opportunities.

Context – Other Cities

- 3.15 It was noted that at MIPIM 2017 many of the regional cities from the UK significantly improved and increased the size of their stand, substantially raising their profile.

This looks set to continue and emphasises our need to continue to build on the success of MIPIM 16/17 and seek to continually improve and raise our profile.

Officers have also been informed that Dublin are likely to attend MIPIM in 2018 after an absence for a number of years.

Future Focus

- 3.16 In the immediate future officers will be following up expressions of interest from investors to arrange a schedule of visits to the city, and to translate this pipeline into tangible investments. We will continue to integrate city centre investment activity with our existing international marketing strategy; and to develop shared messaging alongside strategic partners in both the public and private sector.
- 3.17 The strong public-private partnership of the City Delegation is the cornerstone on which our success is based. The 50% growth in delegates and private funding between 2016 and 2017 highlights the growing credibility and cohesion that City Leadership has brought. Council need to nurture and develop this relationship on a continuous basis, creating an enduring city partnership that goes above and beyond the immediate needs of the delegation to MIPIM.
- 3.18 With the 50% growth of the Belfast delegation, and the growth of Council ambitions for the City, serious consideration should be given to the size and location of the Belfast stand.

The 2017 was twice the size of the year before, but was still limited in its ability to host larger groups and discussions and provided limited facilities for individual networking. In addition, while the Belfast programme successfully animated the stand, the location could be more prominent to obtain an increase in passing footfall and the opportunity for additional engagement.

- 3.19 The growing ambitions for 2018 underpins the requirement to start planning as soon as possible to ensure we can continue to deliver effectively, going above and beyond to ensure the best profile for our city and business opportunities for our Belfast delegation.

3.20 Financial & Resource Implications

Finance: Members are asked to note that a balanced budget is projected for the 2017 MIPIM fund of £300,000 (80% of which was raised from the private sector). Although excellent value for money, both in terms of partnership support and investment outcomes, the overall spend illustrates the high level of funding required to effectively market the city on the international stage.

- 3.21 Resources: To help resource the step change in our investment focus, the city centre team has recruited a senior marketing manager to co-ordinate MIPIM and all investment related marketing activity on a permanent basis. Members are asked to note that significant external resource is still required: including design and construction of the stand; PR & marketing; and the cost of preparatory events. Subject to approval from Members, these will be funded through the public-private budget outlined above.

- 3.22 Equality and Good Relations
None.”

After discussion, the Chief Executive advised the Committee that update reports on any further outcomes from MIPIM would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Events and Festivals Update (tabled)

The Committee considered the undernoted report and the associated Appendix which was available on modern.gov:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 At the February 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, the City Events Programme for 2017/18 was approved. This sets out the key events to be organised and delivered by the Council’s City Events Unit. These include the Titanic Maritime Festival, Halloween and St Patrick’s Day.

1.2 At that meeting, Members asked for additional details on other events and festivals supported to include events and festivals supported and delivered by the Council as well as those supported financially by the Council but delivered by others. Members also asked for performance indicators against the range of support provided by the Council.

1.3 The purpose of this report is to present an overview of events and festivals supported through the various Council funding streams and to set out the outcomes from this investment across the different funding streams.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the details of Council support for festivals and events through the range of funding streams set out in section 3 of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members may be aware that the Council supports a range of cultural, sporting and activity-based events through a number of grant programmes and funding streams. An overview of the grant schemes, as well as the available annual budgets is set out below:

Programme/funding stream	Aim/purpose	Overall budget allocation 2016/17
Core Multi-annual funding	Core multi-annual funding supports the core activities of arts and heritage organisations who deliver on the four	£1,450,592 (of which £424,000 was core funding to festival organisations)

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Programme/funding stream	Aim/purpose	Overall budget allocation 2016/17
	themes of the Council's Cultural Framework	
Community Festivals Fund	Joint funded by BCC and DC, this fund recognises the role that festivals can play in increasing social cohesion, celebrating cultural identity and strengthening community relations. The focus is on community-level events	£167,031 (of which 50% is provided by DfC)
Parks Events Grants	This grant scheme aims to encourage more people to get involved in our parks and create a sense of ownership	£98,121
Sports Events Grants	Aimed at attracting major sporting events and assisting organisations with the delivery of these. Also aimed at increasing the number of events in the City's sporting calendar	£90,849
Arts and Heritage Project Grant	Aims to support one-off arts and heritage projects that are new and that align with the Council's Cultural Framework	£36,178 to festivals and events-related activity; overall allocation was £160,000
Active Belfast Grants	Support for events to raise awareness of the benefits of remaining active	£24,785

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Programme/funding stream	Aim/purpose	Overall budget allocation 2016/17
Family friendly grants	Support for events to encourage participation by families	£15,337
Festival of Learning events	Promoting events to encourage lifelong learning	£26,933
Bonfire Grants	Supporting events to increase capacity or raise awareness in relation to issues of cultural expression	£52,835
City Events (organised directly by Council)	Provide a year-round programme of city events to attract residents and visitors and to generate economic impact for the city	£917,000
PCSP Grants	Support for activities to prevent, reduce or address ASB	£4,713
Good Relations Grants	Supporting positive relationships within communities to address issues of sectarianism and racism	£45,900 towards events - overall allocation was £286,278
Summer Intervention Fund	Supporting interventions to divert young people from involvement in conflict at times of heightened tension	£16,200 towards events: overall allocation £75,335

3.2 The breadth of activity taking place under these various funding mechanisms is significant. Each of the funding programmes has a set of agreed criteria against which applications are assessed. Likewise, the impact measurements for each of the funds will vary, depending on the objective of the particular funding programme. For example, while the City Events Programme run directly by the Council will measure economic impact in terms of visitor spend and bed nights, some of the smaller scale events will measure participant number (volunteers etc) as well as audience numbers. It is also important to note that, in most

cases, the Council is only making a contribution to the overall costs of an event, as opposed to fully funding the event.

- 3.3 A breakdown of the various events and festivals funding programmes including the measurements used to assess their impact is attached as Appendix 1. Note – these figures are for the 2016/17 financial year. Some of the highlights include:**
- Council-managed City Events programme generated in excess of £8million in additional economic activity for Belfast, attracting almost 330,000 visitors.**
 - 15 festivals and events supported through Core Multi-Annual Funding (CMAF) for the period 2016-2020. Members should note that this funding provides core costs to the organisation to support their development work, rather than directly funding the festival activity. The cumulative total of this investment is £424,000 annually.**
 - 33 festivals and events funded through the Community Festivals Fund in 2016/17. A total of £167,031 allocated. These events attracted a combined audience figure of almost half a million people (482,541) and almost 50,000 participants (46,140).**
- 3.4 Members will be aware that a strategic review of City festivals and events is currently underway. The purpose of this review is to consider how the Council, working closely with partners such as Tourism Northern Ireland, Arts Council for Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities can invest in a programme of events and festivals that can support the Belfast Agenda – which each of these organisations has also signed up to.**
- 3.5 In parallel, a review of Council investment in grant activities is also under way. This review will consider – among other issues – how grant funding can contribute to supporting a vibrant programme of events in the city centre and in local communities. The review will also cover issues such as streamlining of processes and measures to ensure consistency around grant management.**
- 3.6 While this latter review may bring about some changes in the focus of funding to support event activity, it is important to note that a number of the grant schemes are match-funded by other partners. As such, there is limited flexibility for the Council to make any significant changes to these grant funds without prior consent of the other partners. Given that many**

of these are regional programmes, the ability to set local criteria is limited.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The funding allocations for each of the grant streams are approved annually by the relevant Committee. The fund administration is managed by the Central Grants Unit.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

All of the grant schemes are screened for equality issues. A number of the grant schemes focus directly on improving good relations.”

During discussion, a Member expressed concern that the current funding system for events and festivals was complex and confusing. The Director of Development confirmed to the Committee that a review of funding for events and festivals was ongoing and also pointed out that a simultaneous review of the nineteen different funding streams across the Council was taking place and that they would both be aligned to the Belfast Agenda.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Culture and Arts - Annual Action Plan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose or summary of main issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Seek approval for the activities set out in the year 2 delivery plan of the 2016-2020 Cultural Action Plan including approval to enter into relevant legal agreements and Service Level Agreements with named delivery partners.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and;
- Agree the year 2 delivery plan (2017/18) of the 2016/2020 Cultural Action Plan including the associated budget requirements, as set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Cultural Framework was launched in October 2012. This Framework was created in consultation with the culture, arts and heritage sectors across Belfast and an action plan for 2012-15 has been delivered. A report in April 2016 also set out a further four year action plan (2016-2020) which helped re-focus efforts on areas of opportunity, in line with the original framework.

3.2 The vision for 2020 was that: ‘everyone in Belfast experiences and is inspired by our city’s diverse and distinctive culture and arts. Arts & Heritage are valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth and the city’s culture and creativity is renowned throughout the world.’

3.3 The framework contains four main priorities for action, namely;

- Distinctly Belfast
- Attracting audiences
- Inspiring communities
- Strengthening the sector.

3.4 The support is delivered through a range of mechanisms including grant funding, development work with key bodies such as the Festivals Forum, Visual Arts Forum and strategic investment in areas such as audience development. Key to successful delivery of this framework is the ongoing need to work in partnership with city stakeholders including government agencies and the cultural sector itself.

3.5 Some of the priority activities delivered in 2016/17 are set out below.

Key Successes 16/17

- Approximately £1.4m invested in supporting 56 key cultural organisations through Core Multi Annual Funding
- Successful Festivals and Visual Arts fora are operating in the City
- 33 Community Festivals supported across the city through the Community Festivals Fund with match funding being provided by the Department for Communities (DfC)

- **£160,000 invested in supporting 29 culture, arts and heritage grants**
 - **City as a Gallery initiative delivered on behalf of BCC by PLACE. A programme of free events ran along a route from Botanic Gardens in south Belfast to the Waterworks in the north. Events included photographic exhibitions, art trails, art collages in café's, sculpture, music and temporary art installations**
 - **Irish premiere of outdoor spectacle Mù performed on 16 October in Ormeau Park as part of the International Festival**
- 3.6 The Belfast Agenda identifies the contribution culture and arts to the city helping to improve quality of life, drive the economy and make Belfast a shared, welcoming and proud city.**
- 3.7 A vibrant and animated city is an essential element of strategies to improve the quality of life for the city residents. Equally it is a key element of the investment proposition for a city, focusing on a diverse cultural offer involving a mixture of indigenous talent and international events. Cultural Tourism is also a critical element of Belfast's tourism offer and one of the key customer segments in the city is the 'culturally curious'.**
- 3.8 The year 2 delivery plan has been drawn up to support the implementation of the 4-year action plan (2012-16) and is included at appendix 1. The plan has taken into consideration the range of actions to be delivered over the 4 year period and has identified a number of priorities to be delivered in 2017/18. As in previous years, partnership working is essential to the development and delivery of actions within the cultural framework and action plan. As government resources come under increasing pressure, it is important to retain focus on the cultural sector and to explore new partnerships and ways of doing business.**
- 3.9 Across each of the 4 themes, some of the proposed actions for 2017/18 include:**
- **Distinctly Belfast:**
 - **Deliver a 'Cultural Animation' programme in partnership with other internal departments including the City Regeneration Team and City Events.**

- **Inspiring Communities**
 - **Deliver an artist in residence programme in a number of key locations across the city, funded through the Peace 4 programme.**
 - **Develop a capacity building programme to enhance the skills of the sector across a number of key areas including marketing, product development, strategic and financial planning and social enterprise support.**

- **Attracting Audiences**
 - **Develop and deliver a tailored programme on audience development based on the baseline research undertaken by Audience NI to:**
 - **Establishing a framework for capturing audience information for festivals, events, galleries and community arts organisations who do not operate box offices**
 - **Work with a number of key organisations including the Festivals Forum to create opportunities for collaborative marketing and clustering to increase the profile of events across the year and increase ticket sales**

- **Strengthening the Sector:**
 - **Establish Memorandum of Understanding with key partners including Arts Council of Northern Ireland, to agree a range of targeted interventions that will enhance the sustainability for the sector.**
 - **Deliver a skills development and training programme that promotes innovation amongst the sector in partnership with a number of key organisations such as Arts & Business.**

3.10 One of the key areas for consideration in this year's delivery plan is how the sector can be mobilised and brought on board as part of the development phase for the European Capital of Culture bid for 2023. If the bid is to be successful, the Council may need to consider the level and focus of its current investment in the sector as the Capital of Culture designation requires mobilisation of cultural assets in the run up to the year and notes the requirement for consideration of legacy after the event. The Council is working with the Arts Council

to consider how collectively, we can make investments that will support the resilience and sustainability of the city's flagship cultural infrastructure

3.11 Targets set out in the Cultural Framework Action Plan 2016-2020 will be monitored on a quarterly basis and reported back to Committee annually. Data collated will include number of participants, number of events, geographical breakdown of attendees/participants in events.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

The Year 2 Delivery Plan will be supported by 2017/18 Tourism, Culture & Arts budget. The funding required has been set aside in the departmental budget for 2017/18 which has been approved by this Committee.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The full Cultural Framework Strategy was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. This updated action plan will continue to be monitored accordingly."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Cyber Security Events

The Director reminded the Members that, at its meeting on 11th January, the Committee had received a presentation from Mr. S. Wray from Deloitte and Mr. D. Crozier from CSIT on the scale of the Cyber Security sector in Belfast as well as the potential for its future growth. At that meeting, Mr. Crozier had referenced a number of Cyber Security events which the City was due to host and Members asked that information on the Conferences be submitted to the Committee.

The Director provided the Members with details on two Cyber Security events which would be taking place in Belfast, namely:

- the Appsec Conference, between 8th and 12th May, at the Belfast Waterfront. It was Europe's biggest web security conference. The conference programme will consist of over 50 software security talks, 3 days of training courses and associated social events; and
- the CSIT World Cyber Security Technology research summit, within the framework of the Appsec Conference, from 9th-10th May, and would bring together the international research community, industry leaders, government policy makers, startups and SMEs from around the world. The theme for the 2017 summit was "Security for a future digital society" and would focus on planning for future cyber security challenges.

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The Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report; and
2. agreed to contact the Head of Economic and International Development if they wished to attend elements of either programme.

Routes Europe Conference

The Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 11th January, an update was provided on the upcoming Routes Europe Conference which would be taking place in Belfast between 23rd and 25th April, 2017. The Committee had acknowledged the opportunity presented by the event to showcase Belfast to a global business audience as well as the potential of delivering new air routes for Belfast. It was agreed that a further update would be submitted to the Committee, setting out the programme for the event and providing the Members with an opportunity to identify relevant elements of the conference which they might wish to attend. The Committee was advised that the overall programme was available on modern.gov.

The Members were advised that the main Conference would take place in the Belfast Waterfront, a welcome reception would be held in Belfast City Hall and a gala networking event would take place in Titanic Belfast.

The Committee:

1. noted the update on the Routes Europe Conference which would take place in Belfast for the first time on 23-25 April 2017;
2. agreed the attendance of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominees, one Member from each party and up to two additional Committee Members to attend the City Hall welcome reception on 23rd April and the Titanic Belfast reception on 24th April 2017; and
3. agreed to contact Maggie McNally if they wished to attend any of the wider conference sessions.

Operational Issues

Ciclovia 2017

The Director of Development reported that Ciclovia was an international health and community based initiative which closed a part of the City to traffic on a given day, for a specific period of time, whereby cyclists were given the opportunity to ride through the traffic free zone of the City. He outlined that, following the successful delivery of Ciclovia Belfast over the last two years, planning was now underway for the 2017 event.

The Director advised the Committee that the first Ciclovia Belfast event had been held in October, 2015 and had attracted over 1,500 participants, with double the number of participants having taken part the following year.

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The Director outlined to the Members that, since its inception, the event had been delivered with partnerships as a central part of its ethos. He advised the Committee that it was anticipated that those agencies which had a cycling specific brief, such as the Department of Infrastructure's Cycling Unit, Sustrans and NI Greenways, would again be key partners for the 2017 event.

He advised the Members that Ciclovía Belfast had a direct economic impact on those businesses which were located on or near the route, with feedback from retail units and hospitality facilities reporting significant increases in trade on the day.

In addition to the Council's involvement with the Belfast Bikes Scheme, the Members were also advised that the event aligned to a number of Council priorities as set out in the Belfast Agenda, including measures to reduce health inequalities, improve the transport infrastructure and to invest in the city and its neighbourhoods.

The Committee agreed to provide £10,000 of sponsorship towards the costs of the event, noting that funding had been set aside in Departmental budgets.

Belfast Car Parking Strategy

After brief discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to defer consideration of the item to allow further discussion to take place; and
2. that the issue of car parking in the City be added to the agenda for the Special Committee meeting, provisionally scheduled to take place on 7th June, with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure invited to attend.

L'Arche Conference

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to present a request for funding for the L'Arche Federation Assembly which will take place in Belfast in June 2017.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the contents of the report**
- **Agree to provide financial assistance of £20,000 towards the cost of hosting the L'Arche International Federation Assembly event in Belfast in June 2017.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that business tourism is an increasingly important sector in the City. Following investment in the Belfast Waterfront, the sector is growing in significance. Last year, over 70 major conferences took place in Belfast, generating an economic benefit of £45million to the City.

3.2 L'Arche is a global network of residential homes built around the needs of people with learning disabilities. There are 150 L'Arche communities in 37 countries across the world. L'Arche Belfast is based on Ormeau Road and the organisation operates a number of projects including supported living schemes for those with learning disabilities, Root Soup – a catering social enterprise and Green Buds – a community allotment scheme.

3.3 The International Conference for all L'Arche members – the Federation Assembly – takes place every five years. The 2017 event will take place in Belfast on 20-27 June 2017. It is expected that more than 500 members will attend from the 37 countries where L'Arche has a presence.

3.4 The Federation Assembly will focus on scoping out the work programme for the organisation in the coming five years. It will look at how the organisation can serve more people, elect new inspirational leaders and celebrate the way in which people with learning disabilities are being championed and supported in many countries. This will include focusing on some of the work that is taking place in Belfast and that can be replicated all across the world.

3.5 The event will take place at Queen's University Belfast and delegates will travel to all parts of the City to visit relevant projects and to see how organisations in Belfast are supporting those with learning difficulties. Delegates will stay at the Queen's student accommodation (Queen's Elms). The overall cost of hosting the event is around £600,000. More than two thirds of this budget is spent on local facilities and activities, meaning that the event is a significant income generator for local hospitality businesses such as accommodation, transport, and catering as well as AV equipment and printers. In line with estimates from other conferences, the combined spend of delegates attending the event is likely to generate around £150,000 to the local

economy. This means that the total investment in Belfast from this event will be around £750,000.

3.6 The majority of the income to cover the costs will come from delegate fees, fundraising and sponsorship as well as income from Charitable Trusts and support organisations. However, the organisation has a deficit in its budget and has approached the Council to seek funding support of £20,000 towards the costs of hosting the event in Belfast in June 2017.

3.7 **Financial & Resource Implications**

L'Arche has asked Belfast City Council to provide £20,000 support towards the costs associated with hosting the event in Belfast in June 2017. This budget is available within the city development stream of the departmental budget that was approved by this Committee and by Council in February 2017.

3.8 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

This event supports the inclusion of those with learning disabilities.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 19th April, 2017

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Armitage (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell);
Aldermen L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence;
and Councillors Bell, Boyle, Bunting, Clarke,
Collins, Copeland, Groves, Heading, Magennis,
McConville, McDonough-Brown and Milne.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, 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 Aldermen McCoubrey and Councillor Dudgeon.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April, 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 issued under Delegated Authority

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

Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence with a Recent Conviction

Crusaders Football, Athletic and Sports Club, 59 – 63 Shore Road

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 18th January, it had agreed that, in future, should a person applying for the renewal,

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variation or grant of an Entertainments Licence be convicted of an offence under the Entertainments Licensing legislation, they would be invited immediately to appear before the Committee to outline the reasons why their application should be approved.

He drew the Members' attention to an application which had been received for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Crusaders Football, Athletic and Sports Club. He explained that the club had, in the past, been licensed to provide both indoor and outdoor entertainment, however, the Indoor Licence had expired in March, 2013 and officers had been informed by representatives that they did not wish to have it renewed. An inspection of the club in July, 2016 had found entertainment to be taking place, which had resulted in the Secretary and the Treasurer being convicted on 14th March of that offence. They had each been given an Absolute Discharge and been instructed to pay costs of £138.

He reported that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered objections. Since the aforementioned offence had been detected, officers had met with management to discuss the future operation of the club, to outline the application process for the grant of the licence and to provide advice on fire safety procedures and the safe evacuation of patrons in the event of an emergency.

The Committee was informed that Mr. A. Cromie and Mr. T. Whiteside, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Crusaders Football, Athletic and Sports Club, respectively, were in attendance to discuss their application and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Whiteside informed the Members that both he and Mr. Cromie had, on 14th March, pleaded guilty to the offence of providing entertainment without an Entertainments Licence. He pointed out that the club still held a valid Outdoor Entertainments Licence and that the failure to obtain an Indoor Licence had been due to the appropriate documentation not being in place, rather than to avoid the payment of fees or to circumvent the legislation. He stressed that, in future, responsibility for processing the licence would rest with five club officials, rather than one, as had been the case previously, and thanked those Council officers who had assisted the club throughout the application process.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Cromie and Mr. Whiteside for attending the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Crusaders Football, Athletic and Sports Club, 59 – 63 Shore Road.

**Application for the Renewal of Seven-Day Annual
Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions**

**Teach na Monagh, 2a Monagh Grove
The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street**

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The Committee was reminded that, under the terms of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it was required, when considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, to take into account any convictions of the applicant relating to an offence under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

Accordingly, the Building Control Manager drew the Members' attention to applications which had been received for the renewal of Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of the above-mentioned premises. He reported that, following an inspection in May 2012 of Teach na Monagh by officers, which had found that a fire exit had been locked, a means of escape had been obstructed and the log book had not been available, the applicant had, on 29th January, 2013, been fined £800 and ordered to pay £66 in costs. He pointed out that the Committee had, on each occasion following that conviction, agreed to renew the venue's Entertainments Licence and that, in the past year, it had been inspected four times, all of which had confirmed that management procedures were being implemented effectively.

In terms of The Spaniard, he explained that the licensee had, on 11th August, 2015, been fined £150 and instructed to pay costs of £69, as a result of an inspection in December 2014 by officers, which had revealed that entertainment was taking place within an area which was not covered by the Entertainments Licence. The Committee had, in 2016, renewed the licence after being advised of the applicant's conviction and three inspections which had been undertaken over the course of the past year had indicated that the premises were being operated in accordance with the Entertainments Licensing legislation.

The Building Control Manager confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered an objection.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Teach na Monagh, 2a Monagh Grove and The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street.

**Application for Extended Hours – Belfast
City Blues Festival, Custom House Square**

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee 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. The Committee had, in the past, granted approval for a number of events to operate beyond 11.00 p.m. within the venue, such as the Belfast Craft Beer Festival and the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, both of which had been permitted to provide entertainment till midnight on a number of nights.

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He reported that an application had been received from the organisers of the Belfast City Blues Festival seeking approval to have the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for Custom House Square extended to enable entertainment to take place till midnight on Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June. The event, which was now in its ninth year, had, in 2016, been accommodated within a marquee in Writers' Square, for which approval had been obtained from the Committee to operate till midnight on three nights. However, the organisers had been unable to book that venue for this year and had selected Custom House Square as an alternative.

He explained that the festival was intended to celebrate the musical heritage of the City and that, whilst the programme of entertainment for this year had yet to be finalised, it would include over forty-five live performances by local and international blues artists, music workshops and archive footage of local music artists. The organisers had requested that the Committee give consideration to permitting entertainment to run until midnight on all three nights of the festival in order to enable patrons to maximise their musical experience and avail of the wide range of local restaurants and other establishments.

The Building Control Manager pointed out that, since the application related to the extension of the hours permitted under an existing licence condition, rather than the variation of the Entertainments Licence itself, there had been no requirement for it to be advertised. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections to the application, however, they would be attending pre-event meetings to comment upon public safety, traffic management, transport and wider operational issues. He added that the Building Control Service was working closely with the organisers to ensure that the requisite documentation was submitted and that an appropriate letter would be issued to local residents providing details of the festival. In terms of noise issues, he indicated that officers would be liaising with the Council's Environmental Protection Unit and the organisers to ensure that an effective noise management plan was put in place to avoid undue disturbance to local residents and businesses. He concluded by pointing out that officers had undertaken inspections of previous Belfast City Blues Festivals and had identified no issues around health, safety or welfare management.

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 on Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June, as part of the Belfast City Blues Festival, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

Applications for the Variation of Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences – Botanic Inn and Wellington Park Hotel / Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence - Wellington Park Hotel

The Committee was informed that applications had been received for the variation of Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences for the Botanic Inn and the

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Wellington Park Hotel and for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Wellington Park Hotel.

The Building Control Manager confirmed that, whilst no objections had been received within the twenty-eight day statutory period, the Lower Malone Residents' Association had submitted objections to all three applications outside that timeframe. He outlined the nature of those objections and confirmed that, under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, when considering an application, could exercise its discretion and agree to consider the objections, although it did not have a duty to do so.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 18th January, it had agreed to implement new criteria for dealing in future with such objections, which would take into account, amongst other things, whether the objector could provide a reasonable explanation for their delay in making their representation. In terms of the objections relating to the Botanic Inn and the Wellington Park Hotel, the Chairperson of the Lower Malone Residents' Association had pointed out that the applications had been advertised in a local weekly newspaper, rather than in the three recognised local daily newspapers, and that it was one which they did not regularly scan for those type of advertisements. The chairperson had stressed that, had the Residents' Association been informed of the applications earlier in the process, it would have submitted its objections immediately.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in view of the explanation which had been provided by the Residents' Association and its history of making representation around both premises, to exercise its discretion and to consider the objections at a future meeting, to which the objectors and the applicant would be invited.

**Designating Resolutions for New Street Trading Sites
and the Variation of Existing Commodities and Services**

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 An important feature of the licensing provisions in the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 is the power of a district council to designate specific streets or parts of streets as being suitable for street trading. The Act also allows a council to vary a previous Designating Resolution in relation to the commodities or services to be supplied in specific streets.**
- 1.2 If a street or the commodity to be offered has not been designated under the Act the Council cannot issue a licence for street trading from a stationary position in that street.**
- 1.3 The process of considering and reviewing the designation of streets is, therefore, an essential part of the legal framework**

within which the Council is enabled to regulate street trading in the City.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is requested to consider the applications which have been received for the creation of new designated sites and for the variation of commodities and services at current designated sites and, subject to any amendments you may have, permission is sought to allow the publication of the statutory 28-day notice of the proposed resolution and to commence consultation with statutory bodies and other persons who may have an interest in the proposals.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1** The Act sets down the procedures which must be followed in considering a Designating Resolution, including the types of trading which may or may not take place in that street. The main steps the Council must undertake may be summarised as follows:

- a) Give public notice of the proposed resolution in 2 or more newspapers in the district;
- b) Consult with the PSNI and the Department for Infrastructure and other persons it considers appropriate;
- c) Consider any representations relating to the proposed resolution which it has received;
- d) After the Council has considered those representations it may, if it thinks fit, pass the Designating resolution;
- e) Publish notice of the outcome for 2 consecutive weeks in 2 or more newspapers, giving not less than 28 days between the date of the publication and the date set out by the Council when the resolution will come into effect.

- 3.2** A further report will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee, detailing the outcome of the process of consultation. At this stage, Members will be able to determine the designation of the streets, along with any restriction on the commodity to be sold and any recommendations regarding the restriction on the times of trading.

- 3.3** Members are aware that the Committee has previously considered a number of locations throughout the City and

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determined their appropriateness for designation. There are currently approximately 60 streets or parts of streets designated as being suitable for Stationary Street Trading.

Proposed New Streets or Part Thereof

3.4 Designation applications or expressions of interest have been received for the creation of new designated sites in streets at various locations throughout the City as listed below:

	Location	Commodity
1	Lisburn Road outside premises of Café Maud's, 555 Lisburn Road.	Ice cream and non-alcoholic beverages.
2	Balmoral Road, situated outside the now closed B&Q site on the left-hand side of the road.	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.
3	Oldpark Road, in lay-by 45ft from the junction with Hillview Road.	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.
4	Gordon Street, at junction with Dunbar Street beside metal artwork for night time trading.	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.
5	Bridge Street, in lay-by outside 12-16 Bridge Street for night time trading.	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.
6	Donegall Street, in parking bay near the junction with Waring Street for night time trading.	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.
7	Cupar Way	Tourist souvenirs or similar commodities.
8	The Arc, Titanic Quarter (5 sites)	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities. Gifts and souvenirs.
9	Hamilton Dock, Titanic Quarter (4 sites)	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities. Gifts and souvenirs.
10	Titanic Plaza, Titanic Quarter (3 sites)	Hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities. Gifts and souvenirs.

Variation of Commodities and Services to be Provided

3.5 The Act also allows the Council to vary a Designating Resolution in relation to the part of the street where trading is

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permitted, this includes consideration of the commodities or services which can be offered at that location. The procedures that must be followed for varying a Designating Resolution are the same as those for making the designation in the first place.

- 3.6 Applicants have asked for the Council to consider the variation of the commodities and services which are permitted to be offered at the following designated sites where they are already licensed:**

	Location	Current Commodity	Proposed Variation to include:
1	Lower Garfield Street, at the junction with North Street	Commodity is to be determined but excludes the sale of hot food.	Hot food to include crepes, waffles, roasted nuts, sandwiches, paninis and hot pastries.
2	Donegall Square North, at front of City Hall	Ice cream and hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages from an ice cream tricycle	Hot food to include crepes, wraps and other artisan foods
3	Castle Junction Kiosk	Hot and cold non- alcoholic beverages, confectionery, ice cream and cold food or similar commodities including the sale of theatre and event tickets	Bus tour tickets
4	Castle Place, opposite Donegall Arcade	Commodity is to be determined but excludes the sale of hot food and tour tickets.	Bus tour tickets

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.7 The cost of all notices is included in current revenue budgets. The required notice to confirm the designation will cost**

approximately £5,000 as our policy states that it must be placed in three newspapers for two consecutive weeks.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.8 There are no equality or good relations issues.”

The Committee granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the designation of the new street trading sites and for the variation of the commodities and services, as set out within paragraphs 3.4 and 3.6 of the report respectively.

Application for the Renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence – Thompson’s Garage, 3 Patterson’s Place

(Prior to this item being considered, the Chairperson informed the Committee of the need, in accordance with the legal requirements contained within the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, to restrict the information surrounding the application.

Accordingly, with the exception of those parties associated with the application and the Council’s Communications Officer, all persons seated within the public area of the room were excluded from the meeting to enable the matter to be considered in private.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meetings on 20th April and 18th May, 2016, it had agreed to defer consideration of an application by Endless Music Limited for the renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for Thompson’s Garage, pending the outcome of a prosecution arising from an incident which had occurred in the premises on 12th March, 2015. It was reminded further that, at its meeting on 19th October, it had obtained clarification from both the applicant and the objector around the delay in hearing that case and associated issues and had again agreed to defer the application until the case had been determined.

The Building Control Manager reported that the case had centred upon an allegation of assault which had been made by the objector to the application against door staff and a former director of the applicant company. He explained that the case had been concluded on 6th April and that all charges against the defendants, including the former director, had been dismissed. The company was now keen to have its application considered by the Committee, given that it had been deferred on a number of occasions and that its plans for the expansion of the business had been delayed and had arranged for representatives to attend this meeting. However, the objector, who had confirmed that he still wished to object to the application and to address the Committee, was unable to attend the meeting due to travel commitments and had provided evidence to that effect. The Building Control Manager highlighted the fact that the objector had already addressed the Committee and that his representation form was appended to the report and pointed out that it was a matter for Members to decide if they wished to consider the application in his absence.

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The Divisional Solicitor provided further details around the factors which had contributed to the judge dismissing the case, which had been obtained from the Public Prosecution Service, following which the Committee agreed to consider the application, despite the absence of the objector.

The Building Control Manager provided an overview of the application and outlined the nature of the objection which had been received, which related to the owner's fitness to hold an Entertainments Licence and the issues which the objector had experienced on the night of 12th March, 2015.

He informed the Members that Thompson's Garage was licensed currently to provide entertainment from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 3.00 a.m. in the ground floor bar and the mezzanine floor, which had a maximum capacity of 225 and 190 persons respectively. The applicant company had informed officers that it was in the process of refurbishing the premises and was working to secure a lease for an adjoining property which, when completed, would enable patrons to enter and leave via Upper Arthur Street, rather than Patterson's Place, as had been the case previously. Those proposals, which would be subject to both Planning and Building Control approval, had been discussed with representatives of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the company was of the view that they would assist in eradicating some of the problems which had existed previously.

He explained that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had indicated that it had no objection to the application, on the basis that it had been liaising closely with the applicant company throughout the application process and that it had been involved in discussions with the company and with representatives of the Council and the Security Industry Authority around the operation of the premises generally. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service had indicated also that it had no issues with the application and that it would, at any time, be willing to meet with the applicant company to discuss, for example, the proposed alterations to the venue.

The Building Control Manager reported that the Security Industry Authority, which had been consulted in relation to the provision of door supervisors at the premises, had confirmed that it had, over the years, engaged with the applicant company on a number of occasions to address concerns around the conduct of door staff and had provided advice and recommendations around the re-training of some staff. It had highlighted two incidents of note, in June and October, 2015, relating to allegations of assault which had been made by members of the public against door supervisors. Those had required investigation by the Security Industry Authority, in partnership with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, following which it had been determined that only the incident of October, 2015, could be attributed to the premises. A number of door supervisors who had had their licences suspended whilst those investigations had been taking place had since been reinstated and Council officers understood that they were still employed at the premises and held valid licences.

He reported further that, since the Entertainments Licence for Thompson's Garage had last been renewed, the Council had received only one complaint of noise breakout from the premises. That had been caused by a fire door being used temporarily by staff to remove empty bottles and had been resolved following discussions with

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management. He added that, since the current application had been considered initially, officers had visited Thompson's Garage on seven occasions whilst entertainment had been taking place and had, each time, found that it was being operated in accordance with the Entertainments Licensing legislation.

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that, under the provisions of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it was required, when considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, to have regard to any convictions of the applicant relating to an offence under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

With that in mind, he drew the Committee's attention to the fact that Mr. S. Boyd and Endless Music Limited had each been convicted on 13th May, 2014 and 24th May, 2016 of two offences under the Order. On the first occasion, officers had found that management had failed to adhere to the permitted occupancy levels between licensed areas and, on the second occasion, had found the second floor to be overcrowded. They had each been fined £800 and £750 and been instructed to pay court costs of £69 and £66 for the respective offences. He pointed out that, following those offences, representatives of the applicant company had met with officers and, in addition to accepting full responsibility for the breaches, had outlined new measures which would be implemented to prevent a recurrence. They had indicated also that, should their application be approved by the Committee, they would be agreeable to a special condition being attached to the Entertainments Licence requiring them to attend, as and when required, meetings with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Security Industry Authority and other relevant parties, which would be facilitated by the Council, to discuss any issues arising from the operation of the premises.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain further details on the application from the representatives of Endless Music Limited and Mr. S. Boyd, Director, and Mr. L. Murray, its legal representative, were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Murray highlighted the detrimental impact which the continued delay in determining the application had had upon his client's business. He drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the case arising from an allegation of assault against door staff and a former director of Endless Music Limited had now been dismissed and stressed that there was now nothing to prevent it from determining the application. He added that, given that the objector had made those allegations, the Committee should disregard his representation.

He then outlined the extent of the measures which had been taken by the company to address issues which had been raised over the course of the application, which had included the removal of a former Director from the company and from the day-to-day management of the business. In terms of the two previous convictions which had been highlighted by the Building Control Manager, he pointed out that the company had acknowledged the seriousness of the offences and had engaged external advisors to ensure that the appropriate systems and processes were now in place. In addition, it had organised training for staff, through the Security Industry Authority and other external providers, and had acquired a lease for an adjoining property, which would address the migration issues which had been experienced in the past. However, despite a significant

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investment, the company had not been able to provide entertainment in that area, due to the ongoing delay in processing its application. Mr. Murray concluded by again requesting the Committee to determine the application at this meeting in order to prevent the company from incurring a further loss in revenue and indicated that, should it be granted, it would be agreeable to a condition being imposed requiring it to attend regular meetings with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Security Industry Authority and other relevant parties and for those to be facilitated by the Council.

Mr. Boyd and Mr. Murray then provided clarification on a number of issues which had been raised by the Members, particularly, around the financial impact which the failure to have the Entertainments Licence renewed had had upon the company and the utilisation of the new area to date, and were thanked by the Chairperson.

The Chairperson then welcomed to the meeting two representatives of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, namely, Inspector J. Hughes and Constable S. O'Hare.

Constable O'Hare confirmed that he met with Mr. Boyd on a regular basis and that he had always been helpful in providing, for example, statements, evidence or CCTV footage. He provided information on the number of assaults and other incidents which had been recorded in and around Thompson's Garage in recent years, some of which were still ongoing, and highlighted the fact that, since Patterson's Place was linked for recording purposes with Donegall Square East and Upper Arthur Street, not all of those could be attributed directly to that venue.

Inspector Hughes informed the Committee that, in the opinion of the Police Service, the company had implemented all possible measures to address the issues which had been raised previously around door supervisors, including the use of body cameras and the provision of training and, on that basis, it could offer no objections to the renewal of the Entertainments Licence.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson for their contribution.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Thompson's Garage, 3 Patterson's Place, with a condition to be attached requiring the licensee to attend, as and when required, meetings with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Security Industry Authority and other relevant parties, to be facilitated by the Council, to discuss any issues arising from the operation of the premises.

Non-Delegated Matters

Fees for Street Trading Licences

The Committee agreed to defer until its next meeting a report in respect of proposed fees for Street Trading Licences to allow for Members to give it further consideration and for officers to provide additional information, including the number of traders registered currently under each licence type.

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Chairperson

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Planning Committee

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MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Johnston (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Bunting, Dorrian,
Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson, Jones,
Lyons, 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 14th March and the special meeting of 14th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April, 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 7. Response to consultation request from Department for Infrastructure on City Quays - multi storey car park, Councillor Jones, declared an interest, in that he was on the board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

Committee Site Visit – 30th March

Pursuant to its decision of 14th March, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 30th March in respect of planning application respect of LA04/2016/1158/F - Change of use from post office to hot food take away at 565 Ormeau Road.

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 7th March and 3rd April.

Departmental Performance Update

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

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

Planning Applications

- 212 applications had been validated in March, 2017; and
- Overall numbers of applications validated this year had increased by 14% (2046 up to 31st March, 2017 compared to 1,760 up to 31st March, 2016).

Planning Decisions

- 194 decisions had been issued in March, 2017.
- 96% approval rate;
- 94% decisions had been issued under delegated authority; and
- the number of decisions issued to date had increased by 24% over the same period in 2016. (1,486 up to 31st March, 2016 compared to 2,049 up to 31st March, 2017).

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 1017 live applications were in the system at end of March, 2017;
- 60% 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 (un-validated management information up to 28th February)

- 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 28th February, 2017 the average processing time to decide major applications was 62 weeks. This, however, included legacy applications and those Major applications which had been delayed whilst a Section 76 agreement had been put in place;
- Excluding those applications requiring a Section 76 agreement, the average processing time for major applications between 1st January and 31st March was 22 weeks;
- 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 28th February, 2017, the

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average processing time to decide local applications was 15.4 weeks; and

- 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 31st January, 2017, 77.2% of enforcement cases had been concluded within 39 weeks.

Noted.

Proposed Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposed Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at:

- Jamiaca Walkways, Ardoyne;
- Mountpottinger Road;
- Annalee Court;
- Hopewell Crescent;
- Bandon Court;
- Residual Lands, Village; and
- Upper New Lodge.

The Committee also noted the confirmation regarding the Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at Rathvarna Drive.

**Response to consultation request from Department for Infrastructure on
City Quays - multi storey car park**

(Councillor Jones, 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.)

It was reported that the Council had been notified of the above application for reserved matters Multi-storey car park (907 spaces) – maximum height of 33.2m, access road, alterations to existing car parking and road layout and associated site works at land west of Donegall Quay north of the M3 Cross harbour Bridge east of Tomb Street and 50m south of Corporation Square.

This application was being dealt with by the Department for Infrastructure, as it related to a previously determined outline application deemed ‘Regionally Significant’ under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991.

It was highlighted that the principle of a multi-story car park at this location had previously been accepted through the outline permission and the supporting information included an outline masterplan document, which set out land uses and general parameters including building heights. Notwithstanding this, the permission granted did not approve this masterplan document, as it was not subject to a planning condition.

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It was reported that whilst the principle of a multi storey car park has been accepted, Transport NI considered the proposal contrary to policy AMP10 of PPS3 which included a number of criteria with which proposals must comply. Transport NI was of the opinion that the provision of the multi-storey car park, without associated development that supports its need, or any form of control of its use until associated development was provided, was contrary to PPS3 in that:

- a) If delivered and allowed to operate as an uncontrolled public car park, it would add to an existing supply which could act as an impediment to economic growth by contributing to congestion and the erosion of environmental quality;
- b) Uncontrolled use of such a car park would be contrary to the overall transportation objective to restrain the use of the car and encourage public transport and Park and Ride initiatives; and
- c) If the Planning Service deemed the provision of the car park would be complementary to the existing parking provision, consideration should be given to the requirement for the developer to enter into a Planning Agreement under Section 76 of the Planning Act 2011 in order to control the use of parking spaces in accordance with the delivery of development, as detailed through the outline application.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the submission of the response to the Department for Infrastructure advising that it should seek the information necessary to satisfy the policy requirements as set out in the relevant planning policy PPS 3 Access, Movement and Parking.

(Councillor Lyons returned to the Committee table at this point)

Withdrawn Item

The Committee noted that application LA04/2016/0879/F - Demolition of existing semi-detached dwellings and the construction of 5 dwellings at 440 - 446 Ravenhill Road, had been withdrawn.

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) LA04/2016/1790/F - 7 flats using salvaged front and main gable facades to match approval - 87 Malone Avenue

(Alderman McGimpsey, Councillors Bunting, Jones and Garrett took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the previous meetings on 17th January and 14th March when it had originally been considered).

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

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The Committee was reminded that the application had been originally presented to the Planning Committee on 17th January and had been deferred so that legal advice could be obtained on the demolition of the façade and its potential consequences for the extant planning permission. An addendum report was considered by the Committee, at its meeting on 14th March and given the issues which had been raised regarding the size and space standards of the proposed living space, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

The Case Officer outlined the Second Addendum Report and advised that notwithstanding the included refusal reason, the recommendation remained that the application should be approved. The case officer advised that it had been considered that the space standards within the Addendum to PPS7 did not apply in this case and highlighted that all relevant material consideration must be taken into account, including the nature of the proposed occupation of the apartments, the location within a high density residential area not characterised by family accommodation, the replication of the front façade and the restoration of the street scape and the history of previous planning approvals for similar apartment development on the site which also did not meet the space standards.

The Committee received representations from Mr. T. Doyle, agent and Mr. J. Megaw, applicant. Mr. Doyle outlined a range of support for the proposal. He highlighted that the LC1 space standards did not apply in this case and if they did, the proposed design would meet them. He suggested that the kitchen and living room exceeded those typically found in the area by 75%. He suggested that other similar proposals had previously been approved in the area and that the design and density had been carefully considered. Mr. Megaw suggested that the proposal would bring quality, attractive accommodation to the area and would take away an eyesore from Malone Avenue.

During discussion, Members raised issues regarding space standards, homes for life versus homes for the short-term, the unauthorised demolished façade of the building and the enforcement of this, and the importance of the Malone Conservation Area Plan.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey, and
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application, in line with the recommendation outlined in the original case officer's report, and delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

On a vote by show of hands six Members voted for the proposal and none against and it was declared carried.

The Committee also agreed that the enforcement officer should consider the expediency of the enforcement regarding the demolished façade at the site and the

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Director of Planning and Place would write to the Department for Infrastructure to clarify the space standards for different types of planning proposals.

LA04/2017/0468/F - 4 storey apartment block at Porters Annex, Apsley Street

The case officer apprised the Committee of the application for the demolition of the existing building known as 'Porters Annex' along Apsley Street and the erection of a new 4 storey apartment block containing 20 apartments.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following additional information had been received, which raised the following points:

Objection from Property and Projects Team (Belfast City Council)

- Concern over proposed bollards along the northern boundary in respect of ambiguity over private or public land and disputes over damage and maintenance of the boundary. Concern regarding the inadequate car parking provision, that the proposal was out of scale and was not in keeping with surrounding buildings. That the proposal had the potential to impact on the right to light of adjoining properties and that the proposed building had a direct view over adjacent play park and multi-use games area;

Consultation response from Rivers Agency

- Objection regarding the potential flooding issues which had not been dealt with as a Drainage Assessment had not been submitted; and

Email from Agent (received 10th April)

- Requested a meeting to discuss the application prior to the Committee Meeting as the applicant was unhappy that the proposal had been dismissed with insufficient time to address the concerns raised.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

He explained that, after assessment, it had been recommended for refusal on the grounds that:

1. The proposal was contrary to policy QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7 "Quality Residential Environments" and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement in that the proposal by reason of its design, scale, footprint and layout would, if permitted, result in overdevelopment of the site and cause unacceptable damage to the character and appearance of the area. The proposal would fail to provide a quality and sustainable residential environment;

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2. The proposal was contrary to policy BH11 of Planning Policy Statement 11 “Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage” and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement, in that it would have an adverse impact on the setting of the B1 listed buildings including St. Mary Magdalene Church and 56-70 Donegall Pass by reason of its scale, height and massing;
3. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3 ‘Access, Movement and Parking, Planning Policy Statement 7 ‘Quality Residential Environments’, Policy TRAN 1 of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement, in that the applicant had failed to demonstrate a safe and convenient means of access and that adequate and appropriate provision for parking was available to meet the Department’s parking standards, thereby prejudicing the safety and convenience of road users;
4. In the absence of a Drainage Assessment, the applicant had failed to demonstrate that adequate measures will be put in place to effectively mitigate the flood risk to the proposed development and from development elsewhere. The proposal was therefore contrary to Policy FLD 3 of Planning Policy Statement 15 ‘Planning and Flooding’ and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland; and
5. The proposal would fail to create a good standard of amenity for future occupiers of the apartments by reason of poor outlook and a lack of amenity space. The proposal was therefore contrary to Policy QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7 “Quality Residential Environments, Creating Places and a core principle of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (2015) to improve health and well-being.

He highlighted that the additional fifth reason for refusal had been added after the case officer’s report had been published.

The Committee received representation from Ms. B. Neeson, acting on behalf of the applicant. She outlined a range of objections to the proposed refusal which related to the change in process, the speed of which the application had been processed and the lack of consistency with developments in the area in regards to car parking requirements. She suggested that the applicant had not been given sufficient time to address the issues raised such as potential for car parking spaces and a traffic survey. She suggested that the proposal could be amended to provide alternative aesthetics to the design of the proposal and that a bike dock could also be included. She requested that the Committee defer consideration of the application so that the applicant could meet with the Planning Officials to discuss the issues which had been raised in the case officer’s report. She also suggested that they had been liaising with the Donegal Pass Regeneration Forum regarding the proposal but there hadn’t been a lot of time to complete any consultation with residents and time to complete this would be appreciated.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer’s report.

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LA04/2017/0283/F - Refurbishment, extension and change of use of the former Windsor House to a 304 Bedroom hotel with associated restaurant and bar facilities (on ground and 22nd floor), conferencing facilities, creation of new retail unit at ground floor at former Windsor House 9 - 15 Bedford Street)

The case officer explained that the site was located within the Belfast City Centre as designated in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and also within the Linen Conservation Area and Commercial District Character Area (Designation CC0007).

The Committee received representations from Ms. A. Wiggam, agent, Mr. H. Hastings, applicant and Mr. H. McConnell, Architect. Mr. Hastings provided the Committee with details of the history of the site and the Hastings Hotel Group. He suggested that the proposal would create 150 new jobs, generate rates revenue and taxes, attract tourists, and the build would also create work for the local construction industry. He outlined a range of issues in support of the application and advised that the proposal intended to be the largest hotel in Belfast and would add to the hotel infrastructure of Belfast.

During discussion, the issue of the final design and cladding of the building was raised. The Director advised that the two elements outlined in Condition 6 would safeguard this issue which included approval for mock up panels of the proposed cladding to the tower element and a sample board for all external materials.

The Committee approved 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, delegated 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 also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

LA04/2016/2561/F - Redevelopment of Brook Activity Centre, 25 Summerhill Road

(Councillors Hussey and Lyons had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The case officer outlined the proposed planning application for the redevelopment of Brook Activity Centre to include the demolition of existing activity centre and the erection of new multi-purpose leisure facility building (including 25m 4-lane swimming pool, 5-court sports hall, 60-station fitness suite, 10 team changing rooms and ancillary suites/rooms), with access via Summerhill Road. External facilities to include 1 GAA pitch (with 2 football pitches across its width), 3 covered five a side pitches, 3 uncovered football pitches, hurling wall, playground, retention of existing football pitch, floodlighting, parking area and creation of "trim trail" along a reconfigured river path.

**Planning Committee,
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The Committee received representation from Councillor Walsh. He outlined his support for the application and suggested that the proposal would be excellent for residents of the Colin Area. He suggested that the community groups who currently use the centre intend to maximise the potential and broaden the usage of the proposed Activity Centre.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

(Councillor Hussey returned to the Committee table at this point)

**LA04/2016/2560/F - Redevelopment of Robinson Leisure Centre,
Montgomery Road**

The Committee considered the application for the redevelopment of Robinson Leisure Centre to include demolition of existing leisure centre and Clonduff Community Centre and the erection of new multipurpose leisure facility building (including 25m 8-lane swimming pool, 20m long training pool and leisure water provision, 4 court sports hall, 140-station fitness suite, fitness studio spaces and ancillary suites/rooms) with a new community centre incorporated into the building. The site would be accessed via Montgomery Road and Clonduff Drive, with external facilities to include, 2 five a side pitches with floodlighting, car parking and associated landscaping and the existing playground would be retained.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2017/0210/F - Change of use from retail to café/bistro for the
preparation and sale of hot food or drink, for consumption on the premises
but to include take away facilities; new odour extraction flue on rear elevation,
1 University Road**

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2015/1514/F - 5 one bedroom apartments at 2 Irwin Avenue

The case officer outlined the proposal. He advised that the principle of apartment development on the site had been established under the expired approval Z/2007/2981/F for "The demolition of an existing dilapidated building and development of 4 number 1 bedroom apartments with associated parking", approved on 9/3/2009 (expired 9/3/2014).

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Armitage, and

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 11th April, 2017**

Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Committee, given the issues which have been raised regarding car parking and impact on residential amenity, agrees 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.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Alderman McGimpsey, and
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

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

LA04/2016/1366/F - Petrol filling station and associated convenience store at 739 Antrim Road

The Committee considered the application which sought permission for a petrol filling station and associated convenience store including ATM, forecourt canopy, odour abatement system, basement storage and self-contained retail unit.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0063/F - 6 apartments in a two storey block and 2 two storey townhouses (renewal of Z/2009/0349/F) at lands to the rear of 114 Upper Lisburn Road

The case officer outlined the proposed planning application for the development of 6 apartments in three storey block and 2 two storey townhouses with related works (renewal of lapsed permission Z/2009/0349/F) which formed part of the development of the site which included two other approved apartment blocks.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0320/F - Open space enhancement on lands including Falls Park

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 11th April, 2017**

The Committee considered a proposal for the enhancement of the existing area of open space comprising a change of surface from existing grass to a fibre sand reinforced grass area with associated land drainage area. Existing levels were to be regulated to remove undulations.

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 and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Thursday, 13th April, 2017

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Johnston (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Bunting, 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; and
Miss. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Committee Process

The City Solicitor clarified that the advice he had given to the Members of the Planning Committee in attendance at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 12th April to withdraw from the Committee Room, whilst Item 4.a) Gasworks Masterplan whilst was under consideration, was so that Members could comply with the Code of Conduct and to ensure the integrity of the Council's decision making processes. He advised also that, as requested, he would provide this advice in writing.

The Chairperson clarified that the Planning Committee of 13th April was the second Planning Committee of the month and had been scheduled so that decisions on two major planning applications could be taken before the Easter break. He advised that the decision for the agenda items on this evenings Planning Committee had been taken last week.

The Director advised that consideration of Item 3. c) LA04/2016/2267/F- Erection of office building (ranging in height from four to six storeys) and associated access road, re-configuration of existing car park and ancillary works - Site C Gasworks Office Park Cromac Place, was not dependent on the outcome of the decision taken by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 12th April, 2017 regarding the Gasworks Masterplan.

**Planning Committee,
Thursday, 13th April, 2017**

Proposed Abandonment - Cromwell Road

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposed abandonment of land at Cromwell Road.

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)

LA04/2016/2267/F- Erection of office building (ranging in height from four to six storeys) and associated access road, re-configuration of existing car park and ancillary works - Site C Gasworks Office Park Cromac Place

The Chairperson advised that the next application on the agenda sought full planning permission for the erection of office building (ranging in height from four to six storeys) and associated access road, re-configuration of existing car park and ancillary works.

Before presentation of the application commenced, the following proposal was put to the Committee:

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the ratification of the Gasworks Masterplan, the relationship between the proposed tower block and the impact on the surrounding housing, and consistency in the approach to major developments agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the proposal and none against and it was declared carried.

The Committee also noted, as the application had not been presented, that Members' present at the next meeting, would be able to take part in the debate and vote on this item.

LA04/2017/0434/F - Change of use from Hair Dressing Salon to Café/restaurant with hot food carry- out facilities; includes rear extraction flue at 71 Botanic Avenue

The Committee considered the aforementioned proposal within the Queens Conservation Area and the Botanic Area of Townscape Character.

**Planning Committee,
Thursday, 13th April, 2017**

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

LA04/2016/1763/F - Proposed demolition of existing building and construction of 7 storey building with ground floor retail unit with offices on upper floors at 22-24 Berry Street

The case officer apprised the Committee of the application located within the Belfast City Centre as designated in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan. He reported that it was also located within the City Centre Conservation Area and the Old City Character Area (Designation CC0009).

He advised that the principle of the retail unit and offices was acceptable given the site's location within the city centre's Primary Retail Core and the planning history on the site. He highlighted that an almost identical proposal had been granted on 9th February, 2009, under application reference Z/2008/0931/F.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

The Committee also agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee for consideration regarding an overview of the built heritage within the City Centre.

Chairperson

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