

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 Annual Meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Thursday, 1st June, 2017 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 2nd May, 2017 (Pages 1 - 8)
5. Official Announcements
6. Appointment of Positions of Responsibility for 2017/2018 (report to follow)
7. Installation of Lord Mayor for 2017/2018
8. Installation of Deputy Lord Mayor for 2017/2018
9. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May, 2017 (Pages 9 - 60)
10. Minutes of People and Communities Committee of 9th May, 2017 (Pages 61 - 84)
11. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th May, 2017 (Pages 85 - 108)
 - a) Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan (Pages 109 - 110)

Subject to the receipt of legal opinion, to adopt the minute of the meeting of 12th April, under the heading "Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan", which was called-in.

12. Minutes of Licensing Committee of 17th May, 2017 (Pages 111 - 126)
13. Minutes of Planning Committee of 16th May, 2017 (Pages 127 - 154)

14. Notices of Motion

a) Checklist for Social Security Decision-Makers

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council supports the Right to Work: Right to Welfare (R2W) group’s ‘People’s Proposal’, aimed at introducing a simple but vital checklist for social security decision-makers.

The Council supports this aim and agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities calling for the issuance of guidance to all decision-makers, requiring them to ensure that both due process and impact assessments are undertaken and fully complied with in the decision-making process.”

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Special Status for North of Ireland

Proposed by Councillor McAteer,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

“This Council calls upon the European Commission to agree a special designated status for the North of Ireland, following Brexit.

The Council agrees to write to the President of the Commission, to the Prime Minister, Teresa May, and to the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, to press the case for special status.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Belfast Youth Forum Report on Poverty in Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

“This Council welcomes the publication of the Belfast Youth Forum’s research report ‘Poverty: It’s not a Choice -Young People’s Views of Poverty in Belfast’, notes the recommendations of the report, commits to dispelling myths and stereotypes about poverty and pledges to do everything in our power to eradicate poverty in our City”.

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

d) Developers' Contributions

Proposed by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer,

"This Council recognises the positive role that has come about through the devolution of planning powers from the Assembly to local councils within the review of public administration.

Planning powers delivered through local councils offers open, accountable and democratic decision-making by councillors elected by the citizens of Belfast.

Devolved planning powers also offers a unique ability through major development proposals to exercise its power in attaining 'Section 76 Legal Agreements,' more commonly referred to as 'Developers Contributions'.

The Council will seek to ensure that any contribution framework that it adopts has the ability to target social need far beyond the 'City Core' and benefit residents in each quarter of this City. It will also look favourably on the creation of an accumulative contribution fund within this framework to bring about wider community benefit, target social need as well as fulfilling the legal obligations of Section 76 Planning Agreements, Developers Contributions."

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

e) Fire Brigades Union

Proposed by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

"This Council recognises the huge contribution which the Fire Service has made to the life of the City and the safety of its citizens. This year sees the 100th anniversary of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), a Trade Union that represents the rank and file of our brave fire fighters.

In recognition of that milestone, the Council agrees to erect a suitable monument within the City Hall, its grounds or another suitable public space. The Council will enter into discussions with the FBU about the type and design of an appropriate monument".

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

f) Shrouds of the Somme

Proposed by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

"This Council agrees to become an official sponsor of 'Shrouds of the Somme', a unique art installation intended to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, and to explore the possibilities of workshops with the artist and of an installation/partial installation in Belfast."

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'W'.

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 2nd May, 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, McCoubrey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Clarke, Collins, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Newton, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Reading of Scriptures

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

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen Convery and McGimpsey and Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Carson, Howard and Mullan.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

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

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

**Meeting of Council,
Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017**

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended his condolences to Alderman R. Patterson on the recent death of her mother, Frances.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor Nicholl on her engagement and congratulated also Councillor Lyons and the former Councillor Claire Hanna on the birth of their daughter, Niamh.

The Lord Mayor reported that Councillor Carson had recently undergone a surgical procedure and extended to him his best wishes for a speedy recovery.

At the request of Councillor Armitage, the Council condemned a recent attack on a migrant family in East Belfast.

Change of Membership on Outside Body

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Sinn Fein Party indicating that it wished to replace Councillor O'Hara with Councillor McAteer on the Lagan Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee.

The Council approved the change.

Filming of Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from the BBC to film the proceedings of the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Request to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. D. O'Neill, the Principal of Good Shepherd Primary School, to allow a deputation to address the Council on the potential impact of the proposed cuts to the Education budget.

The Council agreed to accede to the request and, accordingly, Mr. O'Neill, together with Mr. S. McNamee and Mr. J. Wallace, the principals of St. Paul's Primary School and Stranmillis Primary School, respectively, were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. McNamee thanked the Council for the opportunity to highlight the difficulties which would be faced by primary schools across Belfast, should the proposed cuts to the Education budget be implemented. He explained that teachers worked tirelessly to ensure that every child was provided with the opportunity to acquire a quality education and that, as the role of a teacher continued to evolve, schools were finding that their resources were continually being stretched and the services which they were able to provide were being restricted. That would, he pointed out, lead to increases in class sizes, which would limit the time which teachers would have available to work with small groups and with individual children, would reduce special educational needs provision and could, potentially, lead to the introduction of

**Meeting of Council,
Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017**

fees for those services which were offered currently either free of charge or at a highly subsidised rate. He concluded by stressing that continued cuts to the Education budget would have the inevitable effect of increasing rates of underachievement and creating a skills shortage and have a detrimental effect on society.

Mr. Wallace informed the Council that the deputation represented a group of at least forty-three principals from controlled, maintained, integrated and Irish medium primary schools from across Belfast and the wider area. He reported that, for the past six years, schools had been faced with cuts in their educational funding and that they had co-operated fully with the Department of Education by making the necessary reductions to staffing levels and resources. Despite that, they had been faced with an annual reduction in funding, to the extent that, this year, they would be unable to implement the cuts being imposed upon them and offer a quality education to all of their pupils.

He reported further that, in March, the Department of Education had written to schools providing an update on the financial planning assumptions for the forthcoming financial year which, despite a definitive budget not having been agreed, had indicated clearly that primary schools would again be significantly affected. In April, the Secretary of State had announced a further reduction of 2.5% for primary school funding. Mr. Wallace made the point that the reductions being proposed currently by the Department of Education and by the Secretary of State would place a further burden upon primary schools, many of which had experienced financial difficulties in the previous year. He outlined the current budgetary position of Stranmillis Primary School and the difficulties which it too would face, should the proposed cuts be implemented, and pointed out that the aforementioned group of principals had agreed that they would continue to place the needs of pupils at the forefront of their decision-making and to exercise budgetary discretion and firm financial management within their schools. However, they would not be facilitating any further cuts to their school budgets, as those would have a lasting impact upon their pupils' education and wellbeing and they would, reluctantly, be planning for deficit budgetary positions within the next three-year plans.

Accordingly, he urged the Council to issue a statement endorsing the principals' campaign for adequate funding to be made available to primary schools and for individual Members to inform other Elected Representatives within their Political Parties of the campaign, with a view to eliciting their support.

The Lord Mayor thanked the deputation for their contribution and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Council agreed that the Lord Mayor should forward to the Secretary of State a letter expressing the Council's support for the primary school sector and its opposition to the proposed cuts to the Education budget. The Council agreed also that Members should draw the issue to the attention of their respective MLAs and MPs in order to obtain their support for the principals' campaign.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman McKee,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 21st April be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017**

Amendment

Draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st April under the heading "Draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity" be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st April were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Magennis,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 4th and 5th April be approved and adopted.

**Request for Matter to be Referred Back
For Further Consideration**

Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces

Alderman Rodgers requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute under the heading "Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces", in so far as it related to the award of an additional grant of £10,000 to Feile an Phobail, being referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson declined the request.

Amendment

Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 4th April under the heading "Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces", in so far as it relates to the award of an additional grant of £10,000 to Feile an Phobail, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

Amendment

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management – National Conference

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 4th April under the heading “Chartered Institution of Wastes Management – National Conference” be amended to provide that the phrase “two relevant officers” be replaced by “the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees)”.

On a vote by show of hands, nineteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty against and it was declared lost.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 4th and 5th April were thereupon approved and adopted.

Resolution: Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Orders (Northern Ireland) 2017

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Magennis and

Resolved - That the Council agrees 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, prohibiting the use by vehicles and pedestrians of those streets in North, South, East and West Belfast, as set out within the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 4th April, and to be effective from 2nd May, 2017.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Alderman L. Patterson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 12th April, omitting the decision under the heading “Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan”, which, in accordance with Standing Order 47 and Section 41(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, has been called-in, be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
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Notice of Motion – Energy Transition

At the request of Councillor Milne, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee providing an update on the work which had been undertaken to date around the development and delivery of a City Energy Strategy, arising from a motion which had been proposed by the former Councillor R. Brown and passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd November, 2015.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 12th April were approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 19th April, 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 and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 11th April, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Mental Health and Addiction Support Services

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O'Hara proposed:

“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.

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McCabe.

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

Affordable Warmth Scheme

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

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

Use of Bus Lanes by Taxis

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

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

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**Stained Glass Window –
321 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company**

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Johnston.

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

Housing Provision in Belfast

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McCabe.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Planning Committee.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 19th May, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hussey (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen Browne and Convery;
Councillors Attwood, Clarke, Corr, Craig,
Hargey, Hutchinson, Jones, Long, McCabe,
McVeigh, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also Attended: Councillor Collins.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Graham, McAllister and O'Donnell

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May.

Declarations of Interest

The High Sheriff (Councillor Haire) declared an interest in respect of item number 8(b) Allowances for Civic Dignitaries and left the meeting whilst that item was under discussion.

Deputations

Designation of Belfast District (or the City Centre)
as a Holiday Resort

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the findings from the public consultation as to whether Belfast City Council should designate the Belfast district (or the city centre) as a 'holiday resort' under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- to seek a decision from Members on whether to proceed with a 'holiday resort' designation

The effect of such a designation would be to provide large shops with an option to extend their Sunday trading hours in the city centre on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September in any calendar year. Such a designation may not come into effect until at least one month after the resolution of the Council.

Deputations

Members will note that the SP&R Committee have agreed to receive deputations from Usdaw and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce and both organisations have confirmed their attendance. Further requests have since been received from Retail NI and Visit Belfast to present at the meeting and it will be a matter for the Committee to decide whether or not it agrees to receive a presentation from representatives of both Retail NI and Visit Belfast along with the two previously agreed deputations from Usdaw and BCTC.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report including the findings from the public consultation which concluded on 5 May 2017.
- (ii) provide approval for the Council to make a 'holiday resort' designation under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- (iii) make a decision as to whether to apply the designation to either
 - a) the entire Belfast City Council district area, or
 - b) Belfast City Centre only (based on the BMAP definition of the city centre).

3.0 Main report

3.1 The initial proposal was made in response to a strong lobby within the city to designate Belfast as a 'holiday resort' area in order to improve the tourism offering in Belfast (particularly on a Sunday morning), to boost the local economy and to support the overall regeneration of the city centre.

The principle of additional Sunday opening hours for large shops in 'holiday resort' areas was established under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (copy attached at Appendix 1). Article 6 was included in the 1997 Order as an additional exemption to allow large shops in tourist areas to avail of the additional tourist trade over the summer months. A range of areas and towns in Northern Ireland have been designated and remain as "holiday resorts" for this purpose including Derry-Londonderry, Newry, Kilkeel, Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle.

Belfast, as a growing tourist destination in both Northern Ireland and wider afield may similarly wish to avail of this exemption. There is nothing in this proposal which will result in any change in existing legislation or further 'deregulation' of Sunday trading law.

3.2 Requirement to consult

Any designation as a 'holiday resort' must be done by resolution of the Council. The legislation states that before making a designation the Council must first consult persons likely to be affected by the proposed designation.

At the SP&R Meeting of 21 October 2016 Members agreed to undertake a public consultation seeking views on whether to designate the Belfast district (or part of the district such as the city centre) as a 'holiday resort'.

3.3 Consultation

Following initial engagement with representatives from within the city's retail industry, council officers received feedback indicating that it would be prudent to carry out pre-consultation engagement with all interested parties for a period of 4 weeks prior to the issue of the formal consultation.

Council officers engaged with a range of organisations during the pre-consultation period including BCCM, Belfast One BID, USDAW, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Translink, PSNI, Retail NI, Belfast City Council Equality Consultative Forum and the NI Retail Consortium to elicit their opinions and shape the consultation questions. The Council also contacted the NI Interfaith Forum to alert them of the forthcoming consultation and offered to meet with them.

A formal consultation was commenced on 10 March 2017 on Citizen Space, the Council's online consultation platform for a further 8-week period closing on 5 May 2017.

A list of consultees has been circulated for information. (The Council also consulted with all of those representatives on the Equality and Disability consultee list as part of the Screening Exercise).

3.4 Responses to The Consultation

In total, 2471 people and organisations responded to the consultation.

Some 1858 responses were collected via Citizen Space (the council's online consultation tool), with the remaining 613 responses being comprised mainly of emails (434) and written correspondence (177). There was also one phone call and one petition received.

Whilst it is possible to undertake a detailed analysis of the responses received via the Citizen Space online tool, it is not

possible to undertake a comparative analysis on the email and written correspondence as they did not cover the question areas set out in the online questionnaire. However, all the responses received have been examined and can be attributed as being either in support or against the proposal according to their content.

Key Findings From The Consultation

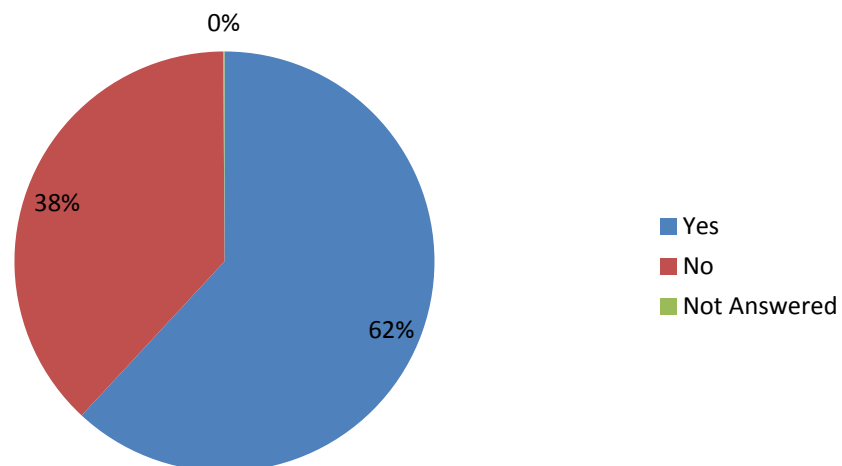
3.5 With regards to the priority question in the consultation –

Should Belfast be designated as a holiday resort in order to provide large shops with the option to extend Sunday trading hours?

Of the total 2471 people and organisations who responded to the consultation:

- 1531 answered yes (62%)
- 934 answered no (38%)
- 5 did not answer

ALL RESPONSES - Should Belfast be designated as a holiday resort in order to provide large shops with the option to extend Sunday trading hours?

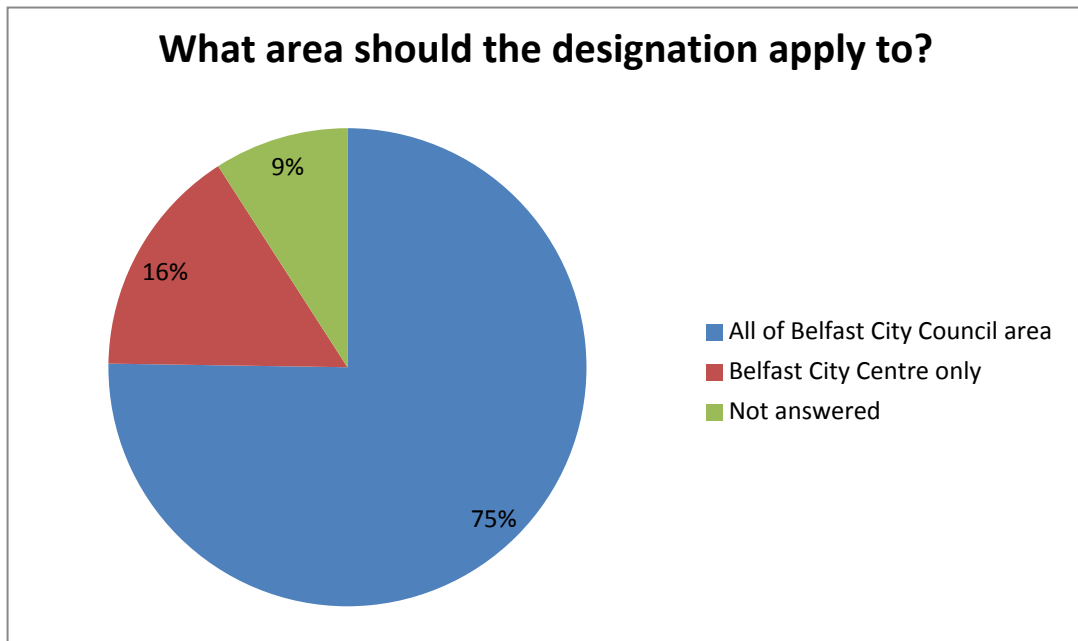


3.6 With regards to the second question in the consultation –

What area should the designation apply to?

Of the total 1858 people and organisations who responded via the Citizen Space online tool:

- 1398 indicated all of the Belfast City Council area (75.2%)
- 291 indicated Belfast City Centre only (15.7%)
- 169 did not answer (9.1%)



3.7 The third question in the consultation asked –

Do you think Belfast would be more attractive as a tourist and/or shopping and leisure destination if the restrictions on Sunday opening times for larger shops were removed?

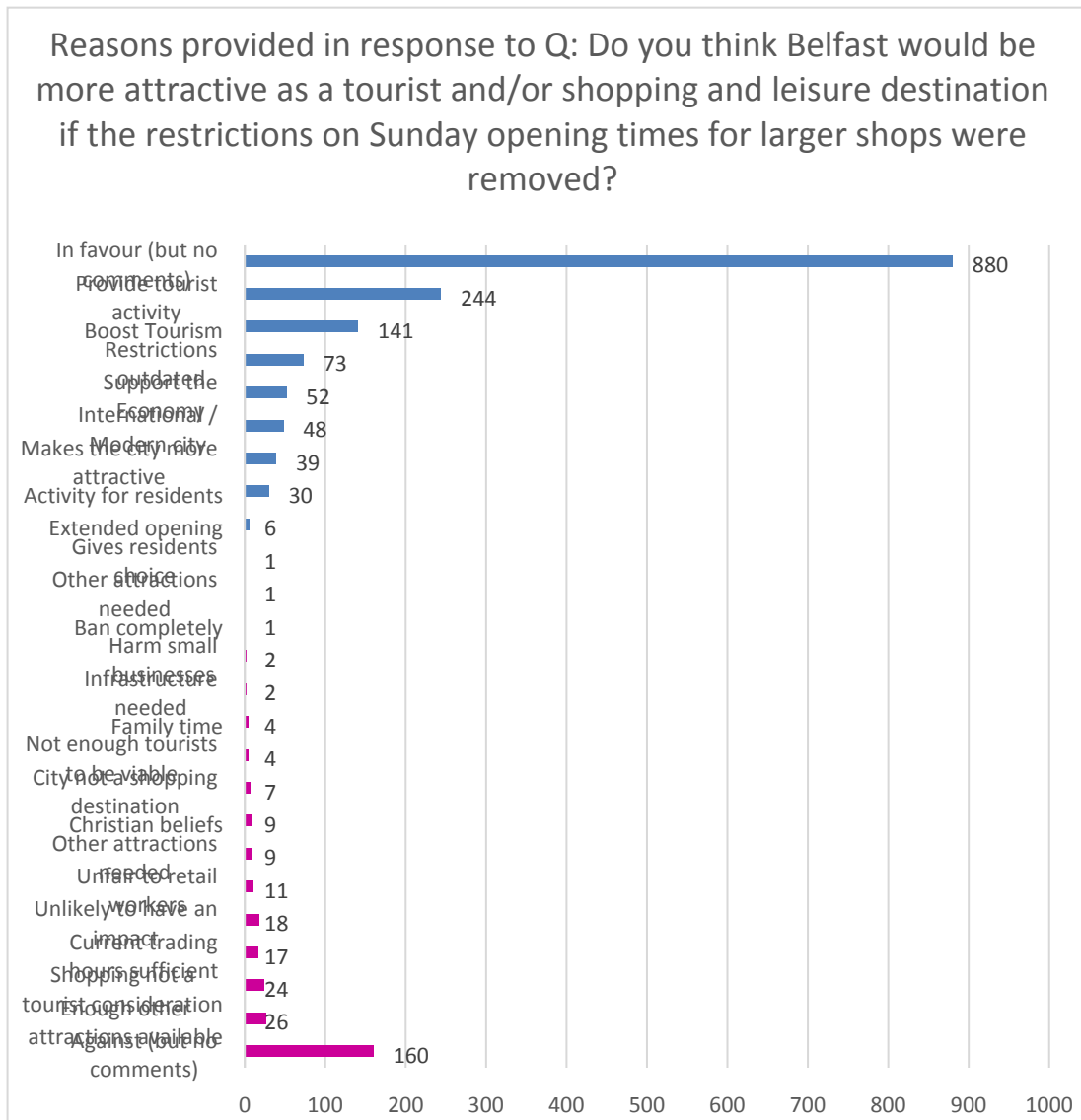
Of the total 1858 people and organisations who responded via the Citizen Space online tool:

- 1515 agreed with this statement (81.4%)
- 294 disagreed with the statement (15.8%)
- 49 did not answer (2.6%)

Consultees were offered the opportunity to provide reasons for their answer.

Those agreeing with the statement cited reasons such as this would boost tourism, would provide tourists with an activity to do, the current restrictions are outdated and it would make Belfast feel like a modern international city.

The reasons given by respondents who disagreed with the statement included those who felt that there are enough other attractions available for tourists, shopping is not a tourist consideration and the current trading hours are sufficient or changes would be unlikely to have an impact.



Tourism NI have indicated that they would position Sunday trading within the context of meeting visitor expectations and providing a range of things to do and see. They acknowledge that flexibility around trading hours sits within a broader debate about what other initiatives are required to make our city centres more attractive and vibrant so that they both help position Northern Ireland competitively on the international stage and encourage local residents to come to them.

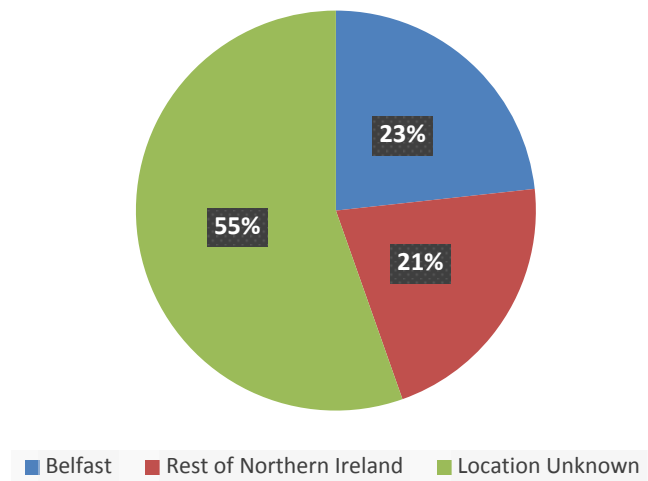
Visitor surveys regularly indicate that a lack of range of things to do in the evenings and on Sundays is a weakness with a negative impact on the overall visitor experience.

Keeping the issue of flexibility on trading hours to the forefront is important not least for any future major tourism events.

3.8 Location of respondents

With regards to the location of those respondents completing the survey, some 23% stated that they were from within Belfast, 21% stated that were from outside of Belfast and 56% did not provide information on their location.

Location of all respondents to holiday resort designation consultation



Next Steps

3.9 Making the Designation

Should the Council decide to make the designation, they must do so by resolution of the Council and the designation cannot take effect until at least one month after the date on which the resolution is passed. Therefore, if the resolution was passed at the 1 June Council meeting then the designation could not take effect until 1 July 2017.

3.10 How would the Exemption be Applied

To make use of the exemption, the occupier or proposed occupier of a large shop must notify the local District Council of the dates of the Sundays involved. The notification does not take effect until 14 days from the date it is given, unless the Council agrees that it should come into effect earlier.

A Council must maintain a register of shops in its district making use of this exemption and make the register available to the public at all reasonable times.

The Council may not dictate which Sunday's the large shop may open on (within the designated dates) nor the opening or closing times. Having made the 'holiday resort' designation the council's role according to the legislation will be keep a register of the large shops making use of the exemption in addition to their existing enforcement role in respect of Sunday trading.

3.11 A co-ordinated approach

If the Council decides to proceed with the designation, the Council will wish to work with key partners including the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Belfast One and Visit Belfast to ensure the effective promotion of the additional hours and to consider the potential impact on city animation due to the additional visitors to the city on that day.

For example, if a major event is taking place in the city over a particular weekend during the summer months, then the Council would aim to ensure that the event would be promoted alongside a programme of supporting activities. The city would effectively be 'open for business' across entire weekend thereby maximising the tourism offering in the city and providing the option for both small and large retail stores to avail of the additional visitors into the city whilst the event is taking place.

Likewise, the retail and business partners have been working on the proposals for increased marketing and promotion in order to raise awareness of the change in opening hours, if agreed. It is likely that the majority of retailers will want to open from 11am. The closing hours are likely to remain unchanged.

3.12 Employment provisions

Concerns about the impact of additional Sunday trading on the rights of shop workers was a major issue during the drafting of the original legislation in 1997. To counter these concerns Article 11 and Schedule 2 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 was included to provide employment rights for shop workers, except those contracted to work only on Sundays. They aim to ensure that shop workers are not compelled to work on Sundays against their wishes. The rights apply irrespective of age, length of service or hours of work.

The Schedule provides that dismissal of a shop worker (including dismissal for reasons of redundancy) is unfair if the reason for it was the worker's refusal to work on Sundays. It also provides the right not to suffer any other detriment (such as denial of normal promotion or training opportunities, or refusal to pay seniority bonuses, etc.) for refusing to work on Sundays. All shop workers who enter into a contract of employment requiring Sunday working are able to 'opt out' of Sunday working subject to giving the employer three month's notice. Enforcement of the employment rights is by way of complaint to an industrial tribunal.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.13** There will be financial and resource implications for both the Development Department and the Planning and Place Department should the Council designate the council area as a holiday resort under Article 6 of the 1997 Order.

The Building Control Service currently perform the enforcement role in relation to Sunday trading under the 1997 Order and the designation of the Belfast district as a 'holiday resort' would require an additional level of resource to manage the registration of participating shops and enforcement of same.

The Development Department may need to consider how existing resources are re-focused to promote change in opening hours. This may include additional city animation or promotional activities. There may also be a request for additional financial support to supplement planned marketing activity. This will have to be found from existing resources.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.14 A draft Equality Screening exercise was undertaken during pre-consultation process. This document was shared on Citizens Space to help elicit views from respondents. The draft screening exercise highlighted minor impacts on the Religious Beliefs and Dependents categories. As part of the online consultation, respondents were asked if they were aware of any equality and / or good relations implications that should be considered around potentially extending Sunday trading.**

There were 454 responses to this question via the online consultation. Some respondents made more than one point. The most frequently cited thematic areas are listed below:

- Some people can't work on a Sunday due to religious commitments /going to church/family commitments but will feel obliged/pressured to do so if changes are implemented. 159**
- Extended Sunday opening during the summer will provide economic opportunities and conveys a positive cosmopolitan image to visitors/tourists. 97**
- If implemented, extending Sunday trading hours during summer months will provide additional choice for residents and tourists that want to shop on Sundays, for businesses that wish to open and people that want to work on Sundays. 70**
- Religious beliefs/current laws should not restrict those who wish to shop on a Sunday 51**
- Family life will be affected if Sunday trading is implemented. There will be a negative impact on retail workers who are carers/have children. 36**
- Extended Sunday trading conflicts with personal Christian religious views/faith beliefs 34**

Information elicited from the consultation will be used to inform and update the Equality Screening document in line with members' decision."

The Chief Executive outlined the main aspects of the report, including the proposed additional trading hours for a minimum of 18 Sundays per year; the prime focus of the proposals, which was tourism spend; the survey results (in which the majority of those surveyed supported the extended hours); details of other Northern Ireland based Local Authorities which had applied the 1997 Order; and the protection already built into the legislation for shop workers who do not wish to work on Sundays. She explained that there was also a requirement for the Council to consider, if it was minded to designate

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Belfast as a holiday resort, the area it wished to designate, that is, the whole Belfast area or the City centre as based on the BMAP definition.

She reminded the Committee that it had already acceded to requests for deputations from Usdaw and the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce. However, there were two additional requests from Retail NI and Visit Belfast and the Committee would need to decide on whether or not to receive them.

The Committee agreed to receive the two additional deputations.

Urdaw

The Committee was advised that Mr. Paddy Lillis, Ms. Michala Lafferty and Ms. Lauren Elliott were in attendance and they were invited to address the Committee.

Mr. Lillis thanked the Committee for receiving them and for the opportunity to verbally supplement Usdaw's detailed written response. He made the point that the deregulation of trading on Sundays was not a new issue and had been ongoing for some thirty years and that Usdaw had, together with support groups, been at the forefront to keep Sundays special. He outlined the background to the legislation to Sunday trading and how the current position was arrived at, with compromises between employers and employees, which also worked for the consumers. He stated that all the evidence to date and all the surveys which Usdaw, the British Retail Consortium and the British Government had carried out had showed that there was no clamour to change the current legislation which had worked well.

He made the point that Usdaw had two main concerns if the hours were to be extended. Firstly, the effect on small businesses which could trade without the restriction of the 5 hours on Sundays. If the bigger stores were allowed to open for additional hours that would take away the competitive edge from small convenience stores which required and wanted to trade on Sunday to boost their own ability to survive.

Mr Lillis stated that, from a Trade Union point of view, its members were telling them over and over that they did not wish to have any further deregularisation. More importantly, was the detrimental effect, as most of the retail employees were female, and the impact on family life. He urged the Council to think carefully about extending Sunday opening, not only for Usdaw's 18,000 members, but for the 120,000 retail workers in Northern Ireland, because any decision which Belfast made would have a domino effect across the country.

Ms Lafferty advised the Committee that Usdaw wished to put on record that it had a petition with 2458 signatures opposed to the extension of Sunday trading hours.

Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce

Mr. Gordon McElroy, Ms. Michelle Greeves and Mr. Michael Stewart, representing the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, were invited to address the Committee.

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Mr. McElroy thanked the Chairperson for opportunity to address the Committee. He made the point that the Council was being asked to exercise its power and not to change the legislation or deregulate in order to recognise the Belfast City centre area only as a tourist destination and as a holiday resort. He stated that most of the hotels in Belfast were situated in the city centre and most of the tourists who came to Northern Ireland came to Belfast City centre and that is what the Chamber would like to see recognised.

He accepted that a number of objections had been raised, such as unfair competition and employees rights, and he addressed each of these objections in turn. He stated that the extension to Sunday trading hours would have the opportunity of recognising the great work which Visit Belfast had done to attract more tourists and the investment which stores had put in to bring the best brands to Belfast. He indicated that these were the brands which tourists wanted to come to shop for and that we are not maximising tourism spend.

He outlined how each of the services and retail industries should benefit on a Sunday and that no one would suffer any detriment as a result.

Retail NI

Mr. Glynn Roberts, who focused on the designation of the entire Belfast City Council area, and advised that Retail NI represented over 1600 members in Northern Ireland, a significant number of which were located in Belfast. He stated that his organisation was opposed to this type of extension and that the existing laws were a hard fought compromise which had in many respects been positive for the retail sector.

He made the point that many of their members' premises were below the 3000sq feet size and that those few additional hours which they opened on a Sunday morning were vital to the survival of their business and any change would lead to an increase in the unfair competitive advantage large supermarkets already had. He referred to the other Local Authorities which had applied 'holiday resort' status and the businesses which had availed of the additional hours and stated that these were mostly the large supermarkets. He urged the Committee to reject the proposals and suggested that a different strategy, with all the appropriate players involved in discussions, was required to ensure that Sunday in every part of Belfast was attractive to shoppers and tourists.

Visit Belfast

Mr. Gerry Lennon stated that Visit Belfast saw this primarily as opportunity to grow the economy, to grasp an economic opportunity which was already there and growing. To put it in context, he stated Tourism was now worth half a billion pounds to the city, it employed between 17,000 and 18,000 people in the Greater Belfast area and somewhere between 17% and 20% of every tourism pound was spent on retail. So the more that the tourism sector could be grown, the more retail would benefit.

In terms of Sunday opening and weekends, the growth in tourism in the last five years (55%) had largely been driven by the leisure market. Occupancy rates in the city centre for the last two years had been averaging 90%. Clearly those people were still in Belfast on a Sunday and that was an opportunity which the City was not capitalising on.

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He explained that the spend per head of visitors to Northern Ireland was significantly lower than those to the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and England, therefore, visitors had to be given more opportunity to engage in what the city had to offer and spend money and Visit Belfast saw this as such an opportunity.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Committee agrees that the Council passes a resolution to designate Belfast City centre as a 'holiday resort' under Article 6 of the shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

On a vote by show of hands, three Members voted for the proposal and twelve against and it was declared lost.

Restricted Items

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

Leisure Transformation Programme - Assets Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme. The report provided details in relation to the planned closure of Andersonstown Leisure Centre, the impact on staffing and users and alternate provision. The report also updated the members in relation to the Brooke Centre, the Avoniel Leisure Centre, Templemore, the Robinson Centre, Olympia and Girdwood.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st April, it had agreed to receive presentations from representatives of the NIPSA and Unite Trade Unions in respect of the mobilisation plan for Andersonstown Leisure Centre.

NIPSA

The Committee was advised that Ms. Naomi Connor, representing NIPSA, was in attendance and she was admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairperson.

Ms. Connor reminded the Committee that NIPSA had been opposed to GLL taking over Belfast Leisure and still had significant concerns. She welcomed the fact that all staff from Andersonstown Leisure Centre had been relocated to other centres or had taken voluntary redundancy and that there had not been any compulsory redundancies. However, she expressed concerns in the manner in which staff had transferred in respect of centre of choice. In addition, she stated that, following the completion of the new leisure centre, staff had been advised that they would not automatically be redeployed to Andersonstown but would have to apply for the new posts. She expressed concern that

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these posts would be under GLL terms and conditions but that the Union position was that staff should retain TUPE rights and be allowed to transfer back to the centre when it was completed.

Ms. Connor then answered a number of questions from the Members, thanked the Committee for receiving her and retired from the meeting.

Unite

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. Michael Keenan and Mr. Harry Magill, representing Unite, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Keenan expressed concern at the way the staff at Andersonstown Leisure had been treated as part of the transfer to other centres. He stated that, whilst the Union welcomed the new facilities which the Council was investing in, it was of the view that morale had been adversely impacted. He also referred to the transfer of staff to other centres and the need to apply to return to Andersonstown and the Union position was that staff should not be employed under new contracts but should be transferred under TUPE conditions.

The deputation then answered a number of question from the Members, thanked the Committee for receiving them and retired from the meeting.

After discussion, during which the Chief Executive and Director of City and Neighbourhood Services answered a number of questions and the Director undertook to investigate some of the issues which had been raised, the Committee:

- noted the contents of the report and agreed to keep the car parking at Andersonstown opened until August and to move the exterior panels to the Whiterock Community corridor: and
- agreed that a report, which provided options on how an independent review of the new operating model could be undertaken, taking into account the contractual position between BCC and GLL, be submitted to a future meeting. The Active Belfast Board would sign off on the review scope

**Special Arrangements in Respect of Awarding Contracts
for Bonfire Retrieval, 2017-2020**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed procurement approach for 2017 – 2020 to negotiate the appointments of contractors on a site by site basis to work with the Council and its partners to remove bonfires and related materials that had been identified as being gathered at or for bonfire sites associated with contentious July/August bonfires and bonfire clear ups.

The Committee was advised that the Council had, for a number of years, utilised the services of an independent cleansing contract for contentious bonfire sites. However, the procurement exercises had proven difficult and the Council had faced market failure

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on a number of occasions. Accordingly, officers were seeking approval to deviate from Standing Order 55 in awarding contracts above £30,000 in relation to the management of bonfire material across the city for the duration of 2017 - 2020.

The Committee agreed to deviate from Standing Order 55 regarding the award of contracts and:

- agreed that contracts relating to the management of bonfire material above £30,000 and up to the value of the European annual tender threshold (currently £164,176) be awarded via direct appointment through a process of negotiation to ensure value for money; and
- that, for all contracts relating to bonfire material retrieval within the stated limits, authority would be delegated to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services who, in consultation with the City Solicitor would issue a contract award.

City Centre Investment Fund Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF), including progress made to date, a summary of advice received from CBRE (in particular intervention options and high level investment parameters) and the planned next steps

After discussion, the Committee:

- agreed high level parameters for scheme identification;
- agreed the project prioritisation matrix as detailed in the report;
- agreed to go to the market to call for expressions of interest;
- agreed to support and independent organisation to assist in the valuation process; and
- granted approval to progress to a more detailed due diligence of the Aurora Fund request and that the Aurora Fund could mention in its ongoing funding discussions/material that it had a proposal with the Council which was currently undergoing due diligence assessment.

Active Belfast Business Plan

The Committee approved the Active Belfast Limited Business Plan for 2017 – 2020.

Disposal of Land at McClure Street

The Committee noted the update in respect of the proposed disposal of Council-owned land at McClure Street for the development of social housing; and granted approval to obtain an updated valuation from Land and Property Services and, in the event that Apex obtained the requisite planning approval in due course, granted approval also to the disposal of the land to Apex Housing Association thereafter on the basis of the valuation and terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and the City Solicitor.

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Update on Organisational Design

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

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Council's Organisation Design Model.

The Committee agreed:

1. the organisational design function model, including the creation of a new Strategic Hub;
2. that a recruitment process could start for a Director of Strategic Development (working title only);
3. that the Chief Executive consult with the Executive Search Agency to determine the level at which the new post should be positioned and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to apply the appropriate tier.
4. that work could begin developing or consolidating the next tier throughout the organisation;
5. to take the opportunity to realign some functions into the new directorates to better reflect the new organisation design, following further consultation and exploration with senior management, staff and trade unions;
6. that the process could begin in moving agreed functions and badging staff to the newly created department(s), following the consultation;
7. that a proactive executive search approach to the recruitment and selection of the Strategic Director post was essential, therefore, the timely and targeted executive search would start to ensure a strong and competent applicant field for the post; and
8. that the selection panel for the recruitment of the permanent Director of Strategic Development reflect a fair balance in terms of community background and gender and be comprised of the Chairperson (or nominee), Deputy Chairperson (or nominee), one other elected Member from a political party not already represented by the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson (or nominees), the Chief Executive and a Council Director.

The Committee also approved the recommendation of the selection panel for the appointment of Mr. Paddy Murray as Head of Human Resources.

BMAP – Bulky Goods Restriction

The Committee noted the Court of Appeal decision given in the Council's favour in relation to the purported adoption of BMAP. The City Solicitor explained that this had the effect of returning BMAP to a draft but that this in real terms did not undermine its significance as a policy within which planning decisions would have to be made. It also had the effect of putting restrictions relating to Sprucefield back as material planning considerations in relation to any relevant planning applications relating to that site.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

**Notice of Motion re Stained Glass Window –
321 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company**

The Committee were reminded that the Council on 2nd May had referred the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Graham and seconded by Councillor Johnston, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

The Committee agreed that the matter be referred, in the first instance, to the Party Leaders.

Belfast Agenda

**A Smart City Framework to Support the Innovative
Delivery of the Belfast Agenda**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To present Members with a proposed 'Smart Belfast' framework that seeks to harness the talent of the city's digital SME sector, and our world-class university research, to support the Council, community planning partners and local communities to create more innovative solutions to complex public policy challenges as identified in the Belfast Agenda. This work is part of a wider ambition to foster innovative methodologies and complements the Council's parallel work on Social Innovation with local communities and our corporate commitment to service transformation.**
- 1.2 The Smart Belfast framework is the product of a twelve-month co-investment agreement between the Council and the UK Future Cities Catapult which also delivered a series of 'demonstrator' projects that utilised a mix of 'smart city' approaches to address current city issues. (One of these**

demonstrator projects has already identified more than £370,000 of additional annual Rates income for the region.)

- 1.3 This report provides an overview of the framework and the results of the demonstrator projects. It also sets out a proposed programme to deliver the Smart Belfast framework within a wider Council commitment to innovative service delivery. It also includes details of an offer from Invest NI to support a 'Smart Belfast' challenge programme which has the potential to provide over £860,000 funding support to local SMEs. And an offer from the Digital Catapult to provide £50,000 funding support to local SMEs for an innovation challenge around the city's visitor experience.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider and adopt the Smart Belfast framework as a basis for driving collaborative innovation between city partners.
- Agree the proposed programme of work including the delivery of a Smart Belfast challenge programme with Invest NI and the delivery of the Digital Catapult's open challenge competition on the visitor experience.
- Agree to a September launch event for the framework and Challenge programme. (Details to be issued to Members later in the summer.)
- Agree that the Council develops an approach to innovation that integrates opportunities presented by the Smart Belfast work, the Social Innovation programme with communities, and the organisational development programme.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Many cities around the world have created 'smart city' frameworks that aim to foster the conditions in which city partners can better exploit leading-edge technologies, data science and industrial design practices to address urban challenges in more innovative ways (while at the same time providing a welcoming environment for start-ups and entrepreneurs to develop new products).

- 3.2 Places such as Glasgow, Dublin, Bristol, and Manchester are successfully using such frameworks to:

- leverage substantial private sector investment and grant funding (eg, Innovate UK and Horizon 2020 funding);
- provide a creative environment in which local digital SMEs and entrepreneurs can develop new products and services;
- deliver innovative joint projects that make substantial contributions to urban challenges such as waste, energy, traffic and water management; and
- Improve public services for citizens and communities.

3.3 At the January 2016 SPR Committee, Members agreed that the Council would co-invest with the Government's Future Cities Catapult in a twelve-month programme to design a bespoke Smart Belfast framework that would seek to tap into our city's own unique strengths (particularly our growing digital sector) to support the delivery of elements of the Belfast Agenda. The joint programme also included a commitment to deliver a series of 'demonstrator' projects which would be used to build the Council's capacity in this area whilst also delivering solutions to real-world problems.

3.4 The 'demonstrator' projects

The programme adopted a 'learning by doing' approach: delivering a number of substantial 'demonstrator' projects that provided practical learning and 'proofs of concept' as the framework was developed. These projects included:

1. Business Rates Identification: Historically it has proven difficult to maintain an up-to-date Rates Register of businesses. (This is mainly due to the dynamic nature of the city's economy with a large number of businesses opening, closing or moving in any given financial year). The existing approach to maintaining the list is expensive and time-consuming resulting in significant loss in potential Rates income for Council and the NI Government. To address the issue the Council, working with colleagues from Land and Property Services and the Dept. for the Economy, ran a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition which provided small pots of R&D money to six SMEs to develop innovative solutions to this problem. In a second phase of the competition two of the SMEs were provided

further support to develop machine-learning proto-types. In their first iterations these solutions identified nearly £370,000 of new recurring non-domestic Rates revenue for the region. Further iterations are expected to grow this figure. In addition, the project attracted £100,000 of funding from Department of Finance and has been featured nationally as a best practice example of SBRI. Both companies have also indicated that they intend to develop their proto-types into commercial products which they plan to sell to cities across the UK.

2. **Belfast Growth-planner**: Working with the Planning Department the Smart Cities team developed a software tool - the first of its kind in the UK – that supports urban planners in determining the capacity of different parts of the city for future physical development. It includes user-friendly analysis of utility provision, water, transport and housing growth capacity. Partners are keen to continue development of this product with the Council and use it to promote Belfast's reputation as a place to innovate and develop complex tech solutions.
3. **A Rates forecasting model** sought to build upon the Council's new planning authority role to support longer term financial forecasting. A design-led process has established the likely approach – with further work required to gather relevant data from public sector partners. The project will also inform the specification of the city's future planning system.
4. A specification was developed for a **city indicator dashboard** to support Members and **Community Planning** partners to track the impact of the Belfast Agenda over time.
5. **Ipedal**: This R&D collaboration between the Council, See.Sense (a local SME), BT, Next Bike and Queen's University seeks to deploy state-of-the-art motion sensors on a number of the city's bikes. The project seeks to understand cycling behaviour (including bike theft) and may inform future bike lane investment decisions. The project also has the potential to identify pot-holes and to measure local air quality. The

project attracted £5,000 of co-investment from the Department of Infrastructure and substantial in-kind investment from BT and See.Sense.

6. **Waste Management analytics:** The Council has been awarded 20 hours of world-class 'big data' analytics expertise to analyse household recycling behaviour with the aim of providing insights that can assist in driving up recycling levels.

3.5 **The Smart Belfast framework**

The Smart Cities team drew practical learning from the delivery of these demonstrators to identify the key elements of the framework. The team also drew on the best practice of other cities and adopted many of the concepts in the BSI Standard for Smart Cities (PAS 181)¹. They also engaged with a broad range of local stakeholders through a series of workshops, one-to-one interviews and an online co-design process.

- 3.6 In general there was strong support for the concept of a Smart framework, particularly from the local SME community which saw it as an opportunity to deploy proto-types and products in a real-world environment, and from public sector partners who recognised the potential to bring innovation to bear on existing challenges. There was also broad agreement that Belfast City Council has an important convening role to play in bringing a diverse range of partners together for a common social impact.

- 3.7 The resulting framework is attached as Appendix One and sets out the following:

- The guiding principles for a Smart Belfast
- The 'foundations' that the city needs to have in place to deliver innovative programmes
- A pipeline of potential projects that can directly contribute to the Belfast Agenda whilst also strengthening the city's smart foundations; and
- A roadmap that describes proposed workstreams and resources.

¹ <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/smart-cities/Smart-Cities-Standards-and-Publication/>

3.8 The foundations for a Smart Belfast:

Belfast has a growing community of innovators, designers, researchers, data scientists, and technologists. The city also has a strong digital infrastructure (enhanced by our recent investment in Superconnected Broadband and City WiFi) that offers first class connectivity for organisations and individuals. However, in order to harness these resources to better address city challenges, the city needs to strengthen four ‘foundations’:

1. **Shared understanding of city challenges:** Partners need to find new ways to work together to understand and analyse shared problems. There is the opportunity to adopt innovative ‘design-led’ approaches from industry that allow public sector partners to think differently about challenges, and then to develop and test their ideas before applying them at scale.
2. **An engaged innovator community:** If we want to co-opt the local SME sector and our universities to tackle challenges together, we need to find new ways of doing this beyond traditional procurement channels. These might include establishing innovative city challenge programmes, Small Business Research Initiatives (SBRIs), R&D collaborative agreements, social innovation programmes, competitions, joint investment vehicles, etc.
3. **Building city data assets:** In a modern knowledge economy access to data is as important an economic resource as access to financing or a skilled workforce. There is a growing demand from digital SMEs for access to public data that will allow them to create new products and services. Partners in a smart city need to get much more sophisticated in how they generate, manage and share public data safely and securely.
4. **Robust delivery mechanisms:** City partners need to find better ways of attracting investment; co-opting the support of partners; and designing agile delivery mechanisms that can develop ideas, test them, and rapidly scale proven

successes in timescales that are measured in weeks rather than months.

3.9 Roadmap

The framework identifies a series work strands that the Council and its partners need to deliver in order to strengthen the foundations described above:

1. **Building governance structures** A cross-sector group to guide the Smart Belfast work; build partner commitment; provide data assurance, and contribute to the delivery of the programme.
2. **Building the Smart Belfast team** The Council and other city partners to build a core team to champion the approach; to engage with challenge owners, and; to coordinate collaborative programme and projects.
3. **Building engagement channels** Utilise digital and more traditional engagement methods for coordination and to communicate the smart city work with stakeholders including local communities, while promoting Belfast as a place for innovators to invest.
4. **Building the innovation network** Provide mechanisms and opportunities for responsive, agile partnerships to deliver projects that address city challenges. These partnerships would draw upon Social Innovation or Living Labs² -style techniques to better understand challenges and work towards solutions.
5. **Building IoT and data infrastructure** Individual projects generate lots of data that can often be developed into a shared city platform that can be used by other innovators. Internet of Things (IoT) technology allows cities to deploy inexpensive sensors for a vast range of purposes from air quality monitoring to tracking tourist and retail behaviour in the city centre.
6. **Building innovation experience** Providing new procurement challenges through such

² <http://www.openlivinglabs.eu/FAQ>

mechanisms as open calls and competitions supported by an Innovation Fund.

3.10 Smart Belfast project pipeline

The aim is to drive the framework through the delivery of challenge-focused projects. That is, the Council and its partners will identify a series of projects over the next period that build our capacity as a Smart City, but also, at the same time, practically address Belfast Agenda challenges.

3.11 Over the past few months officers have engaged with partners (including Tourism NI, Department for Infrastructure, Queen's and Ulster University) to draw up a pipeline of likely projects for which there is a demand from 'challenge owners' and potential smart city solution-providers. Further work is required to identify collaborative investment opportunities but emerging proposals include:

- **A circular economy grand challenge:** A SME-led challenge in support of the Resourceful Belfast strategy to rethink the city's waste as an economic resource.
- **A Belfast Health and Leisure Passport:** Developing a detailed understanding of the physical activity citizens to improve programmes and interventions and enhancing the impact of the Council's £105m leisure transformation programme.
- **Public transport challenge:** Nearly half Belfast's workforce travel to work by car. Attitudes to travel by public transport or active travel remain a barrier. As major improvements to public transport are completed (Belfast Transport Hub, Rapid Transit System), this barrier will need to be lifted in order to maximise these opportunities.
- **City centre parking:** Adopting new technologies to understand driver behaviours and providing interactive solutions to address the parking challenge.
- **Building an integrated employment pathway:** Belfast has a complex, underperforming employability pathway with many providers offering a broad range of interventions for those working towards employment. A key step is understanding employability as a total system.
- **Understanding visitor trends:** Building a more sophisticated model of tourist and conference

delegate behaviours to enhance the city experience.

- **Leveraging the public estate**: Drawing on new technologies to provide innovative ways of managing the wider public estate including the planned leisure estate.
- **Understanding the future labour market**: The Northern Ireland Skills Barometer reveals areas of significant imbalance, such as an undersupply of STEM skills, and an over-supply of hospitality skills. More work is needed to create actionable insights at a local level.

3.12 Smart Belfast Challenge programme

Invest NI has been particularly supportive of a Smart Belfast and have identified it as an opportunity to provide R&D support to the region's burgeoning digital SME sector. They also see it as a means by which city partners can develop ideas that may form the basis of future applications to the Government's Innovate UK³ funding programme. As Members may be aware, over £2 billion of innovation funding is being provided to business growth sectors over the next few years – with urban infrastructure challenges being a particular focus for funding. Work on Smart Belfast challenges can provide important experience in the development of more complex future applications to Innovate UK.

3.13 Invest NI is therefore proposing to provide up to £25,000 each to eight SME-led networks addressing four or five Smart Belfast challenge areas over an eight month period. These networks would then be eligible to apply for a second phase of funding of up to £170,000 each to help them design proto-types and concepts that address a Belfast challenge. The potential maximum funding pot available is approximately £860,000.

3.14 To deliver the programme the Council would be expected to facilitate engagement between city partners and work with the network members on the challenge areas. Officers are recommending that the Council work with Invest NI to deliver this programme with an initial 'challenge' workshop with partners in June 2017 and a public launch in late September 2017 at City Hall. Further details of this launch event will be presented to Members in August 2017.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk>

3.15 Digital Catapult Open Challenge competition

The Council has also been approached by the Northern Ireland node of the Digital Catapult. This organisation also support the concepts behind the framework and are offering to provide £50,000 of funding to local SMEs in a two-stage design competition to unlock local expertise in immersive technology to develop proposals to support the visitor experience in the city. The Catapult is seeking £25,000 of match-funding from Council in support of the competition (which is scheduled to open on 26 May).

3.16 Wider innovation ambition

The Smart Belfast framework is part of a wider ambition by the Council to foster innovation in service delivery and it complements our parallel work on Social Innovation with local communities and the Outcomes-Based Accountability model adopted for community planning. Each of these strands adopts a number of core methodologies (such as design-led innovation, partnership working, agile and scalable deployment of projects, etc.) There is an opportunity to support a growing innovation culture within the Council by incorporating these Smart City and Social Innovation methodologies into aspects of the Organisational Development programme.

3.17 Financial & Resource Implications

During its first twelve months the Smart Belfast work has already attracted over £200,000 of co-investment (from Future Cities Catapult, Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure). The Smart Cities team also led the successful application to the 100 Resilient Cities programme which will attract substantial funding from the Rockefeller Foundation over the next two years. This ability to attract co-investment is only likely to grow during the implementation phase – particularly if the framework is successful in creating the conditions for attracting Innovate UK funding.

3.18 Invest NI has offered to support SME partners to a potential value of £860,000 while the Digital Catapult has offered an initial £50,000. There are also offers of in-kind support from other partners including data science, Queen's University and Ulster University (which include access to Phd researchers and UU's new Cognitive Analytics and Research Laboratory).

3.19 Delivery of the first year of the framework will require a budget of £378,000. This total includes the delivery of six main work-strands:

- Smart Belfast framework implementation: £105,000
- Smart Belfast challenge programme with Invest NI and Open Challenge call with Digital Catapult: £55,000
- City data management and digital strategy: £70,000
- Further development of existing demonstrator projects: £123,000
- Develop new pipeline projects proposals £20,000
- Development support for a corporate Innovation programme £5,000

3.20 If the Framework is agreed by Committee the financial implications outlined above will need to be considered as part of the year end finance report which will be presented to the Committee in June.

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Residents’ Survey

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on the key findings from the Belfast Resident Survey and to outline next steps in terms of how the data will be used and reported.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the key findings of the survey

- As in previous years, it is recommended that the results from the survey will be communicated through the council website, City Matters and via interlink and that a similar report to this to be brought to the next SP&R Committee. It is also recommended that more detailed reports be brought to each of the Area Working Groups so that Members can consider local implications if any arising from these results.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The council undertakes a regular resident survey to help inform strategic planning, in particular the development of the council's corporate plan and now our emerging Belfast Agenda. Information from this research, together with other evidence and data, is used to help set the future strategic direction of the Council and to inform community planning priorities; it is also used to track progress on and inform improvement objectives for council and the city. The survey also helps council fulfil its statutory duty to consult under the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 as it provides reliable resident perception data to inform strategic planning and performance management. The survey, which is based on a representative and statistically valid sample, is normally carried out every two to three years, with the most recent survey carried at the beginning of 2017.

3.2 The survey was carried out by Social Market Research (SMR), to ensure independence and to provide expert assurance regarding the statistical validity and reliability of the data. As with previous exercises, the survey was based on a representative sample of residents and carried out via face-to-face interviews conducted in the home. Approximately 1500 people over the age of sixteen were interviewed across Belfast across all DEAs and electoral wards.

3.3 The fieldwork was carried out between 2nd February and 2nd March 2017 and sought feedback from residents on the following matters:

- Living in Belfast
- Improvement Priorities for Belfast
- Your Local Area
- Your Wellbeing
- Belfast City Council Performance

3.4 Key findings are set out below; where applicable comparison with the previous survey results from 2014 are provided for trend purposes.

3.5 **Improvement Priorities for Belfast**

Respondents were asked about to indicate, on a scale of 1 to 10, how important or unimportant a range of improvement priorities were for them. The list of improvement priorities were generated using previous research and feedback on what mattered most to local people or for making a successful city. The priorities that ranked highest overall were:

<i>Improvement Priority</i>
Attracting investment to Belfast
Improving people's health and wellbeing
Supporting our older people
Improving safety, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
Creating more jobs
Reducing poverty

3.6 Whilst it is possible to create a ranked order of importance based on average score, it should be noted that the improvement priorities all ranked highly demonstrating that the emerging council and city strategic plans resonate with people's concerns.

3.7 **Living in Belfast**

91% of those surveyed were satisfied with Belfast as a place to live. The level of satisfaction has remained fairly constant since 2007 and compares favourably to other cities.

3.8 Approximately 4 out 5 people surveyed, felt that in Belfast:

- People are friendly, caring and compassionate (86% - new indicator)
- All people can live life to full (84% - up from 79% in 2014)
- Children and young people can reach their full potential (81% - up from 74% in 2014)

3.9 Whilst approximately 3 out of 4 people surveyed felt that in Belfast:

- People share in the economic success of the city (76% - new indicator)
- People are treated with equality and respect (75% - new indicator)
- Older people are treated with respect and dignity (73% - down slightly from 76%)

3.10 There were also high levels of agreement that Belfast:

- Is a good place to visit (92%)
- The city centre is vibrant and attractive (87%)
- Is a well-connected city (85%)
- Is a welcoming and inclusive city (82%)
- Is an economically thriving and prosperous city (81%)
- Is an environmentally friendly city (80%)

3.11 My Local Area

91% of those surveyed were satisfied with their local area as a place to live – up from 86% in 2014. However, there are variations across DEAs, initial analysis would suggest those living in electoral areas with higher levels of deprivation recording lower levels of satisfaction. Further more detailed analysis is currently being undertaken.

3.12 When asked more specific questions about their local area, respondents were also quite positive with improving perceptions across all questions. Over 4 out of 5 people surveyed agreeing that their local area:

- had a strong sense of community (87% - up from 73% in 2014)
- people worked together to improve things (87% - up from 69% in 2014)
- was clean and attractive (82% - up from 68% in 2014)
- 85% agreed that they could access all the services they needed (up from 81%), whilst 76% agreed they could access job and training opportunities (up from 60%)
- 82% of respondents agreed that the local area had good parks and green space with 80% agreeing that the parks and green spaces were safe.

- 3.13 When asked about perceptions of safety in general, the 2017 results also showed slight improvement with 94% indicating that they felt fairly or very safe in their local area during the day (up from 91%) and 82% indicating that they felt fairly or very safe in their local area at night (up from 80%).
- 3.14 Perceptions of safety in the city centre also shows improvement with 91% feeling fairly or very safe in the city centre during the day (up from 78%) and 65% feeling safe at night (up from 58%)
- 3.15 Generally, the good relations questions have tended to score lower in comparison to other issues; however the results from 2017 have increased when compared to 2014. Those surveyed this time were more inclined to agree that their local area was a place where people from different:
- racial and ethnic backgrounds got on well together (79% - up from 52% in 2014)
 - religious and political backgrounds got on well (79% - up from 51% in 2014)
 - was seen as welcoming to others (84% - up from 69% in 2014)
- 3.16 The results also show improvement in the number of people who felt they were [always or mostly] able to have a say on things happening or how services are run in their area - up to 51% from 46%. In 2017, we asked a new question about partnership working – three quarters of respondents (76%) agreed that local agencies and service providers worked well together to support and improve your local area?
- 3.17 When asked unprompted what one thing do you think would most improve the quality of life in your local area, the issues most frequently mentioned were:
- Less dog fouling
 - Bins being emptied / more bins
 - More for children / young people
 - Improved parking
 - Jobs / employment opportunities

3.18 **Wellbeing**

This year's results also show marginal improvement across the wellbeing questions. Overall satisfaction with life, as scored on a scale of 0 to 10, was 8.2 which compares favourably to other cities.

3.19 Belfast City Council Performance

Generally resident opinion about Belfast City Council was positive:

- 81% agreed the council makes Belfast a better place to live (up from 69% in 2014)
- 74% agreed the council shows good leadership for the city (up from 65% in 2014)
- 78% of respondents were satisfied with how council runs things (up from 69% in 2014)
- 87% agreed the Council keeps residents either very or fairly well informed about the services it provides (up from 64% in 2014 and 54% in 2010)
- 68% agreed that the Council consults with and listens to the views of local residents (up from 60% in 2014 and 36% in 2010)

3.20 In 2017 we asked new performance questions, which we hope to use as benchmarks against other councils and sectors moving forward:

- 71% agreed that the council provides good customer service;
- 67% rated the council highly [excellent to good] in terms of reputation, 11% felt it was poor with the remainder answering 'don't know';
- 63% rated the council highly [excellent to good] in terms of trustworthiness, 10% felt it was poor with the remainder answering 'don't know';
- 76% agreed that Council should have more power and responsibility for delivering services and developing the city.

3.21 The results from the resident survey will play a key part in helping to inform the development of the council's Corporate Plan and the development of the 'Belfast Agenda'. It will also help us to track progress against the key outcomes and objectives within these plans. Survey data relating to council performance and outcomes will be fed into the new performance management arrangements being developed as part of our new obligations under the Local Government Act. Members and partners will have an opportunity to consider these findings in more detail as part of the ongoing community planning development process and through the individual work streams and also through Area Working Group meetings linked to the development of local area planning.

3.22 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report.

3.23 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. However, the information obtained will help inform our good relations work and audit of inequalities.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Governance

**Annual Updates to the Council Constitution Documents
(including the Scheme of Delegation)**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit for approval updates to the Council Constitution and it’s appendices, specifically:

- Council Constitution
- Standing Orders
- Roles and Functions of Committees
- Scheme of Delegation

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the proposed amendments

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 As Members will be aware, the Council approved a Constitution in April 2015 comprising key governance documents including the Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation. In order to reflect recent organisational changes in the Council, the NI Executive departments and new legislation, these documents have been updated. Tracked changes versions of all the updated documents are set out as appendices to this report.

3.2 In addition, in order to improve the service delivery of the Planning function, the powers delegated to the Director of Planning and Place were discussed at a special meeting of the Planning Committee on 14th March 2017 where it was agreed to recommend the changes proposed.

3.3 **Key Issues**

Constitution

Some minor amendments have been made to the Constitution to reflect internal and external changes. This updated document is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

3.4 **Standing Orders**

Some minor amendments have been made to the Standing Orders to reflect organisational changes and new legislation. This updated document is set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

3.5 **Roles and Functions of Committees**

Some minor amendments have been made to this document to reflect internal changes. The updated document is set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

3.6 **Scheme of Delegation**

A summary of the amendments which have been made are set out below and an updated document is at Appendix 4 to this report.

Recent organisation and legislative changes

- New Director of City & Neighbourhoods
- New Director of City Centre Development
- Move of Parks & Leisure
- Move of Building Control
- Move of Community Services
- Establishment of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited
- Establishment of Innovation Factory
- Updated references to legislation, statutory guidance and bye-laws

Please note that the powers relating to newly-vacant post of Director of Organisational Development can be delegated by

Chief Executive. A report outlining the re-assignment of these powers will be brought to Members at a later date.

- 3.7 In addition, a clause has been added allowing the Town Solicitor to make minor amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to reflect organisational or legislative changes (see 3.3.12) without having to bring the full Scheme of Delegation to Committee for approval. Significant amendments to the Scheme of Delegation will continue to be brought to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

3.8 Planning-related changes in order to improve service delivery

These changes have been proposed to ensure that the Planning Committee can operate more efficiently. At present the Planning Committee considers on average 17 applications (12 local and five major) each month. The key changes proposed would reduce the average number of local applications considered at each meeting from 12 to four. This would mean the Committee would deal with an average of nine applications (five major and four local). The ability of Members to bring matters before the Planning Committee is unaffected.

	Current	Proposed
Local	12	4
Major	5	5
Total	17	9

- 3.9 The Planning Committee at their meeting on 14th March 2017 agreed to recommend the proposed changes. For clarity, the proposed changes have been set out in a table in Appendix 5 of this report.

3.10 Licensing-related changes to give effect to the Pavement Café Act 2014

A new provision for the granting, renewal and variation of pavement café licences has been added. The Licensing Committee at their meeting on 14th December 2016 agreed to recommend the proposed changes (see 3.8.8 I).

3.11 Building control-related changes for dealing with dual-language street signs

Following a judicial review of a Council decision not to erect a dual-language street sign, the Scheme of Delegation has been updated to provide the power for refusing an application where the required survey quota is not met and no exceptional circumstances have been submitted. Where the submitted exceptional circumstances relate to matters other than the carrying out and processing of the survey, the matter will be presented to Committee (see 3.8.8 m and n).

3.12 Next steps

If these changes are approved by Members, the changes would take effect after the next Council meeting except the Standing Orders which must be passed at one Council meeting and confirmed at the next.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The key aim of the proposed changes to the powers delegated to the Director of Planning and Place is to improve the efficiency and service delivery of the Planning function.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations contained in the report and noted that the City Solicitor had sought legal opinion regarding issues which had been raised about Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) as set out in Standing Orders and would report back to the Committee in due course.

Non-Attendance at Meetings

The Committee acceded to the request by Councillor Arder Carson for the Council to approve his continued absence on the basis of ill health under the provision of Section 9 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Capital Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report outlines

- an update on projects under the Capital Programme
- proposed movements – Clarendon Playing Fields (Stage 3- Committed), Ulidia Playing Fields and King George IV Playing Fields (Stage 2- Uncommitted)
- proposed additions– Reservoir Safety Programme and Ventilation system at St. George’s Market (Stage 1 – Emerging)

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to –

- note that updates on the Capital programme since the last update report

Project Movements

- agree that the following project is moved to Stage 3- Committed – Schemes at tender preparation stage on the Capital Programme –
 - Clarendon Playing Fields – New mini 3G pitch and floodlighting (see 3.4) – with a maximum budget of £452,000 to be allocated - the Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are also asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver.
- Agree that the following projects are moved to Stage 2 - Uncommitted (see 3.5)

- Ulidia Playing Fields – New 3G pitch and floodlighting – OBC to be worked up with further detail to be brought back to Committee for consideration in due course
- King George V Playing Fields – New 3G pitch and floodlighting - OBC to be worked up with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course

- Agree that the following projects are added as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects
 - Ventilation system at St. George’s Market - SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.6)
 - Reservoir Safety – SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.7)

Other projects – Updates

- Shore Road Changing Pavilion – note that a study is being commissioned to ascertain the best option for future changing provision at the Shore Road (see 3.8)
- Fleet Programme - note the Fleet Programme for 17/18 (Appendix 1) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects (see 3.9)

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** The Council’s rolling Capital Programme is a significant programme of investment in Council assets and Members are asked to note the update in respect of the delivery of projects as outlined below –

Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion

- *Connswater community Greenway* – at the end of April a major milestone was reached with the opening of the final section of the transformative Connswater Community Greenway project. In

total the CCG has involved the development of 16km of new foot and cycle paths, improved green spaces, 23 new or improved bridges, 5km of flood walls and embankments, 6 new tourism and heritage trails as well as the C.S. Lewis Square. This is the single biggest capital project that the Council has ever undertaken at approx. £40m which included funding of £25m from the Big Lottery Fund and

- *City Hall - New visitor exhibition – ‘A journey from the past to present’* – officially opened by the Lord Mayor on Monday 15th May
- *North Foreshore Infrastructure works* – the North Foreshore site was officially opened for business on Wednesday 3rd May. As Members are aware a development brief for leisure uses for the site is currently out to the market which submissions due to be returned by 19th May

Projects currently on the ground

- the £3.7million upgrade of the Tropical Ravine
- Phase 2 of the Olympia regeneration project which includes the creation of the new boulevard entrance, new play space and 3G pitch and Midgley Park replacement
- New pavilion at Sally Gardens

Projects at tender preparation stage

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including the new pitch at Cherryvale under the Pitches strategy which has recently received planning permission, the baby plot memorial at the City Cemetery for which an artist has recently been commissioned and open space upgrades at both the Falls Park and Skegoneil

- 3.2 Members are asked to note that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital programme project.

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- 3.3 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which

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projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements as summarised below

Project	Overview	Stage
Clarendon Playing Fields	New mini 3G pitch and floodlighting Maximum of £452,000 to be allocated	Move to Stage 3- Committed
Ulidia Playing Fields	New 3G pitch and floodlighting	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
King George V Playing Fields	New 3G pitch and floodlighting	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
St. George's Market – Ventilation system	To examine the options in relation to the ventilation system at St. George's Market	Add as an Emerging Project
Reservoir Safety Programme	To examine the options to ensure the safety of Council owned reservoirs	Add as an Emerging Project

Move to Stage 3 – Committed

- 3.4 Clarendon Playing Fields – Development of a new mini 3G pitch and associated floodlighting. Members. Members may recall that the Clarendon project was initially added to the Capital Programme under the MUGA programme however in May 2015 Committee was updated that the scope of this project had changed from a MUGA to a mini 3G pitch and the Committee therefore agreed that this should be reconsidered as a stand-alone project and added as an emerging project in its own right. Since this time work has progressed on the project, an OBC has been completed and assessed and planning is now in place.**

It is now recommended that this project is progressed to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme and the Director of Finance & Resources has recommended that a maximum of £452,000 be allocated to this project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Committee is also asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted

- 3.5 Ulidia Playing Fields and King George V Playing Fields – New 3G pitch and floodlighting - Members will recall that they agreed in June 2016 to add the redevelopments of both Ulidia Playing Fields and King George V Playing Fields to the capital programme as Emerging Projects with SOC's to be worked up. These have now been completed in respect of both projects and it is recommended that both projects are now progressed to Stage 2- Uncommitted which will allow the costs to be fully worked up.**

Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision in either project and that as part of the OBC process these projects will be looked at in the context of other strategic initiatives happening in the local areas including the leisure transformation programme, existing facilities, planned projects under external initiatives and/or additional funding opportunities (e.g. DfC investment, Living with Water Programme etc).

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects

- 3.6 St. George's Market – Ventilation system – Members will be aware of the changing nature of the offering at St. George's Market over the last number of years which has seen it move from being a traditional type of market to much more emphasis on becoming a tourism attraction and a destination of choice within the city with for example the Saturday City Food and Craft Market and specialised markets for example the award-winning Twilight Market which has a particular emphasis on local food producers. As a result there are an increasing number of hot food vendors and stalls at the market.**

The current ventilation system was installed when the Market was redeveloped in the early 90s and is no longer fit for purpose in terms of the current market offering. It is therefore recommended that the ventilation system is added as an emerging project onto the Capital Programme in order to assess the best option available in terms of future provision. Members will however appreciate the limitations of the St. George's Market both as a listed building and as a major working building and the need to ensure that any new system/upgrades will be sympathetic to the buildings overall usage and design will be considered as part of the Stage Approval process.

- 3.7 Reservoir Safety Programme – The Council owns a number of reservoirs across the city including Half Moon Lake, Boodles Dam, Waterworks Upper and Lower and Alexandra Park and as a reservoir owner the Council has a number of obligations under the Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 which has recently received Royal Assent and the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973. This includes ensuring the safety of reservoirs. Committee have previously been advised that works are required at Boodles Dam in order to comply with the requirements under the Reservoirs Act which were identified through a Section 10 safety report. Section 10 reports have now been carried out on the Council's other reservoir sites and a number of issues have been identified at the Waterworks and Alexandra Park which the Council are required to take forward. The Council has also recently received notification from the Rivers Agency reminding us of our obligations in this regard.**

It is therefore recommended that a Reservoirs Safety Programme is added to the Capital Programme and that as part of this consultants are engaged to look at the emerging priorities of work required with further detail to be brought back to Members in due course.

Other projects

- 3.8 Shore Road Changing Pavilion – Members are asked to note that following a recent maintenance report on this facility highlighted a number of key issues and noted that the building was in a poor state of repair. In light of this a study has been commissioned to assess the best option for the future changing provision at the Shore Road as the current provision is no longer fit for purpose. An update on this study will be brought back to Members in due course for consideration in relation to the next steps**
- 3.9 Fleet Programme 2017/18 – Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. In March 2013 SP&R agreed to allocate £2.1m towards the Fleet Programme for 2017-2018. Members are asked to note that the Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation. Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2017/2018 (see Appendix 1) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects**

**Physical Programme 2017/2018 and beyond –
implications for Members**

3.10 Members are aware that the Council is currently delivering a major physical programme which includes

- over 70 projects on the Capital Programme
- the £105m Leisure Transformation Programme which will see the redevelopment of 7 leisure centres across the city with works due to commence in the summer on Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson
- 35 BIF projects which includes 12 which are at Stage 3 –Committed with the 23 projects currently being worked up
- A £9m LIF programme – which has already seen over 50 projects completed across the city with a further 70 either underway or agreed in principle
- a £6m annual rolling programme of maintenance

In addition the Council is now becoming the delivery agent of choice for a number of central government departments and is currently either delivering or proposed to be the delivery agent for over 40 projects across the city under the Building Successful Communities initiative, Urban Villages or the Social Investment Fund.

3.11 Members will recognise from the above that resources, particularly financial resources, are in increasingly short supply and there is ever increasing demand for the Council to do more with less and less and it is clear that this level of investment cannot be sustained at this rate in the future given the budgetary pressures facing the Council and the wider public sector.

Members are asked to note that there are a number of major capital projects which need to be considered over the coming months including the new crematorium, the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens as well as a wide range of emerging projects. Members therefore need to be aware that each decision they take in relation to progressing a capital project or agreeing additional money towards any one project or agreeing any new projects has a consequential impact on the level of financing that is available for other capital projects and each individual decision therefore subsequently limits the capacity of the Council to progress

other capital projects thereby potentially necessitating some difficult decisions for Members in terms of prioritisation.

3.12 It is appreciated that this is a complex area for Members and it is therefore proposed that a detailed report on the current status of the physical programme, including the capital programme, is brought to Committee next month for the consideration of Members to allow Members to start to consider the physical programme in the context of local area planning etc.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The capital programme is a rolling programme of investment in council assets

3.14 Equality & Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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 24th April; North Area Working Group 26th April; West Area working Group 28th April; and East Area Working Group 4th May.

West Area Working Group

The Committee was advised that the West Area Working Group (AWG), at its meeting on 26th April, had noted that the Falls Community Council (FCC) had recently approached the Council seeking support for the St. James Forum and the development and implementation of its community forum project (WLIF2 -10). The AWG had been asked to consider if it wished to approve the project proceeding as a partnership project between the St. James Forum and the FCC which would require due diligence on both organisations and joint signatures on any future legal agreements. The Working Group had agreed to the projected proceeding as a joint initiative.

Noted.

South Area Working Group

The South Area Working Group (AWG) in November 2016 had previously agreed to ring-fence £250,000 of its outer south BIF allocation to BIF33 – Linfield FC/ Boys

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Brigade and Belvoir FC, with further detail on the scope of the project to be brought back. Following further work with the Group the South AWG, at its meeting on 24th April, had agreed that the scope of the BIF funding should focus on Phase 1A which included the replacement of Belvoir FC's grass pitch, resurfacing of the car park and the widening of the access lane.

Noted.

Assets and Estates

Former Tudor Place Playground, Agnes Street

The Committee approved a negotiated financial settlement of £250,000 from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to an Agreement dated 7th August, 2000 for the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and approved proposals for this capital receipt to be ring-fenced for the provision of proposed play facilities in the Agnes Street area.

Springfield Star – Lease Agreement

The Committee agreed to extend the current lease agreement with the Trustees of Springfield Star for lands adjacent to Springmartin Playground for a period of 3 years, with an option to renew for a further 3 years from the end date of the previous agreement.

Medway Street Depot

The Committee agreed to appropriation of the Medway Street Depot to the Corporate Landbank, which was held by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and managed by the Estates Unit, with a further report to be submitted to the Committee in due course on future use/disposal options.

Licence Renewals for Off Street Car parks Located at Bankmore Street and Cromac Street

The Committee agreed to the renewal of the car park Licence Agreements at Bankmore Street for 12 months from 1st April, 2017 at an annual licence fee of £28,100 and at Cromac Street for 12 months from 1st April, 2017 at an annual licence fee of £49,000.

Avoniel Play Centre – Proposed Temporary Relocation to Exchange Church

The Committee agreed to a Licence Agreement for the provision of temporary accommodation at Exchange Church, Albertbridge Road for the displaced Avoniel Play Centre Summer Scheme and potentially the After Schools Club.

**Requests for the Use of Giant's Park, North Foreshore
for NI Children's Hospice Colour Dash**

The Committee approved the use of facilities at Giant's Park, North Foreshore on 6th August, 2017 for the NI Children's Hospice 5k Sparkle Dash run, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the key issues as set out in the report.

**Park Road – Substation and Cable Easement
and Right of Way**

The Committee granted a 99 year lease, cable easement and right of way to Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Ltd (NIE) for land at Park Road, Belfast for the installation for an electricity sub-station which supplied the Council's Park Road Civic Amenity Site.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Setting of Regional Rate

The Committee noted a report which provided an update on the setting of the regional rate and arrangements for issue of rate bills for 2017/18.

Allowances for Civic Dignitaries

The Committee considered a report in relation to the allowances payable to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff and agreed not to increase the allowance for the 2017/18 year.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (1) approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, table 1, through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- (2) grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economic advantageous tender, and allow extensions where contracts were under review as per table 2; and
- (3) noted the contracts awarded between January and April, 2017 as per table 3.

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Appendix 1 - Schedule of Tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and Delivery of Animal Feed to Belfast Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with the option to renew annually for a further two years
Botanic Gardens Palm House Redecoration	Gerry Millar	6 months
City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) – Application Evaluation Partner	Nuala Gallagher	Up to 18 months with option to extend on a yearly basis for a further 2 years.
European Capital of Culture Support Services Contract	Donal Durkan	Up to October 2017 with option to extend on a month to month basis
Belfast Story – Contract for Strategic Client and Financial Advice	Nuala Gallagher	Initially for up to 12 months with potential to extend throughout duration of the project in line with activity schedule and break clause options

Table 2 – Contracts for Extension of contract period

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Provision of Footwear and Gloves	Gerry Millar	Month to month until a new tender is in place
Provision of Mobile Video Screens	Donal Durkin	Month to month until a new tender is in place

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Table 3 Contracts Awarded January – April 2017

Title of Contract	Director Responsible	Contract Duration	Successful Contractor
T1776 Supply and fitting of tyres and associated services	Gerry Millar	39 months	Michelin Tyres plc, Campbell Road, Stoke –on-Trent, ST4 4EY
T1757 Tender for creation of a Brand Identity for Belfast	Suzanne Wylie	6 months	McCadden, Roof Terrace, Bedford House, Bedford Street, Belfast , BT2 7FD
T1755 Supply of Gas	Gerry Millar	33 months	Lissan Coal Co Ltd t/a Go Power
T 1756 Supply of Electricity	Gerry Millar	33 months	Lissan Coal Co Ltd t/a Go Power & Airtricity Energy Supply
T1758 Supply and delivery of trees	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year (+2 years)	Hillier Nurseries Ltd, Ampfield House, Winchester Rd, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 9PA
T1759 Design, provision and management of fireworks/pyrotechnics	Donal Durkin	3 years (+2 years) or maximum value of £160,000	Pains Fireworks Ltd Whiteparish Salisbury SP5 2SD
T1786 Professional Services to develop a full feasibility study for the City Growth Deal	Suzanne Wylie	12 months	KPMG LLP, 15 Canada Square, Canary Wharf London
T1771 Collection and Recovery of Vehicles and Mobile Plant	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1 year)	CCRS, 51 Cotton Rd, Bangor BT19 7QG

Requests for Funding

The Committee considered a report in relation to a joint request for funding from Féile an Phobail and Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR) in relation to a pilot diversionary programme in the south and west of the city. The total request for funding was £100,000.

After discussion the Committee agreed:

- that Officers meet with representatives of Feile an Phobail and BSCR to further exploit a request for funding and the costings for a pilot diversionary programme in the south and west of the city, with the report to be submitted to the June meeting on further details of the proposal as part of the year end finance report;
- that authority be delegated to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June to make the decision on whether or not to fund the proposal; and
- that the aforementioned report be submitted in the first instance to the Shared City Partnership to ascertain its views.

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Equality and Good Relations

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 8th May.

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 11th May.

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

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd Board of 20th April.

**Requests for the Use of 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 as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
MAY 2017 REQUESTS						
Peace-players International Champions4Peace Celebration Event	16 August 2017	Reception to recognize the work and efforts of Champions4Peace – a programme for young people to identify, manage conflict and appreciate diversity. Attending - 80	Yes – c & d	No charge (charity)	Yes TCB £2 per head as small reception and would assist in the delivery of this event and small numbers attending	Allow No charge Hospitality – TCB reception £2 per head max 80 people
Business in the Community	29 September 2017	Networking event to allow business people to meet with and learn of third sector organizations and their needs – encourage business to work with local communities. Attending – 60	Yes – a & d	No charge (charity)	No – business and trustees attending.	Allow No charge No Hospitality

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Fleming Fulton School	21 September 2017	To recognize a significant milestone in the school's history and celebrate the work of special schools within Belfast	Yes - c	No charge	Yes, wine reception up to £500 in value	Allow No charge Civic hospitality
2018 EVENT REQUESTS						
IAFP Forensic	17 May 2018	Welcome reception for international delegates attending the IAFP Conference Attending - 80	Yes – a & b	No charge (charity)	Yes – TCB	Allow No charge Hospitality – TCB reception £2 per head max 80 people or wine reception
University of Ulster International Conference of Structure in Fire dinner	7 June 2018	Welcome reception and dinner for delegates attending this 3 day conference in Belfast Attending – 260	Yes – a & b	£825.00 (university not a charity)	Yes Max £500.00 wine reception	Allow Charge £825 Hospitality – Wine reception
British Sociological Association	13 September 2018	Welcome reception and dinner for delegates attending this 4 day conference in Belfast Attending – 200	Yes – a & b	£825	Yes Max £500.00 wine reception	Allow Charge £825 Hospitality – Wine reception

Invitation to Attend the Centenary Ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge

The Committee was advised that the Council had received an invitation from the UK and Irish Governments for a number of Members to attend the centenary ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge in Belgium on 7th June. Following contact with the organisers, the Council had been able to secure invitations for one representative from each of the six main political parties represented on the Council, together with a Council officer.

It was reported that the Somme Association had, through a local travel agent, arranged a visit to Belgium which would include this ceremony. The group would leave on 6th June and return on 9th June. However, it was pointed out that anyone attending the visit would be absent for polling day for the General Election on 8th June. In addition,

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given the tight time scales associated with making the booking with the Somme Association trip, it would be necessary to confirm any booking with them no later than Monday, 22nd May.

The Committee agreed that one representative from each of the six main political parties on the Council, together with a Council officer, be authorised to attend the Centenary Ceremony for the Battle of Messines Ridge.

ILLUMINATE – Use of Facilities

The Committee agreed to accede to a request from Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) the use of the ILLUMINATE system to mark a local day of action on 26th May, subject to it meeting the criteria and on the basis that the system was not already in use on that day.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 9th May, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers, Sandford and McKee; and
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Heading, Jones, Lyons, Magennis, McCusker, McCabe,
Newton and O'Neill.

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

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor Milne.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4th April and Special Meeting of 5th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May.

Declarations of Interest

Several of the Members declared an interest in respect of agenda item 5, viz. Parks Events Grants Scheme, as follows:

- Councillor Magennis in that he was a member of the Sally Gardens management committee; and
- Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Copeland and Newton who were members of the Board of the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group.

Request to present to Committee - Contact NI

The Committee agreed to invite representatives of Contact NI to present at a future meeting of the Committee on its campaign call for a Suicide Prevention Bill.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

**Notice of Motion - Affordable Warmth / Supplementary Report
on the Affordable Warmth Scheme**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 2nd May, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Heading, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

Councillor Heading emphasised the large number of vulnerable households currently in fuel poverty throughout Belfast and stressed the difficulties that these drastic cuts would have on the provision of this vital service.

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that during 2016-2017 the Service had completed 543 referrals to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and that the total value of approvals granted for the scheme had been £2,096,984.32. In total 1372 measures had been installed and 646 homes improved within Belfast.

The officer detailed that the scheme continued to receive a high volume of enquiries. She advised that whilst the scheme was primarily targeted, there was 600 vulnerable households currently on the self-referral holding list and the team continued to triage these cases to try and ensure that the most vulnerable received help.

The Committee noted that correspondence issued from the Department for Communities, on 29th March, 2017, had stated that the number of referrals that would be accepted by the NIHE had been reduced from 46 to 25 per month for each Council area. The funding provided to the Council to enable it to deliver its part of the scheme had also been reduced from an average of £26,812 per quarter in 2016/17 to £13,575 for the first quarter in 2017/18. A Member highlighted that this loss of funding had also not taken inflation into account.

The Committee recognised the exceptional difficulties presented as a direct result of the current political crisis and the ongoing uncertainty that this had created regarding

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funding and explained that this had resulted in the Council having to reconsider staffing levels. The officer detailed that, in an attempt to ensure continuity of service for the scheme, it had been agreed that staff would be retained during Quarter 1 to allow time for clarification to be provided from the Department for Communities. However, it was stressed that failure to get a formal resolution could result in resources having to be reviewed.

The Committee noted the Notice of Motion and supplementary report and agreed to write to the Department for Communities regarding the current funding arrangements for the scheme and to seek clarification on future funding.

Committee/Strategic Issues

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

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meetings of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 10th April and 3rd May, the following key issues had been considered:

- update on a permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery;
- update on the Memorial Management Policy;
- update on the economic appraisal of future cremation facilities; and
- update in respect of bereavement administration.

A Member highlighted some of the ongoing issues and concerns around memorial safety inspection which was recognised as a sensitive issue. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the public were kept informed of the process that was being undertaken and working with families to try and remedy headstones which had been identified as being unsafe.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services concurred and advised that officers would be conducting exploratory discussions with sculptors in late May with a view to discussing set prices associated with undertaking both the erection of memorials and associated remedial works and trying to reduce the impact of any expense for families, he added that consideration would also be given to the current administration fee.

Discussion also ensued regarding the use of blue and white tape which was currently used to seal off unsafe memorials and asked officers to investigate if a more discrete alternative could be used.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group meetings held on 10th April and 3rd May 2017.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Facilities Management Arrangement - Clarendon Playing Field

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 the Committee on discussions with Clarendon Development Association regarding the future management arrangements at Clarendon Playing Fields.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources that the Council enter into a Licence Agreement with Clarendon Development to permit the locating of the proposed building on Council land adjacent to the existing pitches and include with it access and key holding arrangements;**
- **Agree to terminate the existing Facilities Management Agreement and to make a one off transition payment to the Club and agree to enter into a preferential use agreement as outlined at 3.11.**
- **Agree to a one off transition payment to support the Association during the first year of the termination of the FMA.**
- **Note that the SP&R Committee, at its meeting in May, is due to consider a proposal to move the redevelopment of the Clarendon pitch (development of a mini 3G pitch with floodlighting) to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme which if agreed will be a Council investment of approx. £450,000**
- **Note that a wider update on the physical programme, including pitches, is due to be taken to Committee in June in the context of the local area asset planning for the consideration of Members**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Clarendon Development Association has held a Facility Management Agreement for a number of years which ended on 31 October 2015. Since that time, the agreement has been operating on a month by month basis in line with the terms and conditions of the FMA, i.e. the Association is responsible

for bookings and undertakes routine maintenance for which they receive a maintenance fee and retain the booking income to be used for the betterment of the asset. Members are reminded that previously Council decided to phase out FMAs when the legal agreement reached the expiration date. Committee will also be aware that in 2015 a new initiative, Partner Agreements, was introduced to replace FMAs. These arrangements are in their second year and will be reviewed at the end of the current season. At present only 7 Partner Agreements have been entered into.

- 3.2 Council Officers have met with representatives from Clarendon Development Association who are aware that the FMA is being continued on a month by month basis. The Association is also aware that it is the intention to terminate the agreement.
- 3.3 The Association has indicated that it has previously, with Committee consent carried, out works to bring the facility to Intermediate League standard. It has also provided storage facilities and purchased equipment to undertake the maintenance of the pitches at a cost of around £20,000. This work was funded by the Association and included pitch railings and dug outs. The Association also has an application for funding with the Alpha Fund seeking funding to provide a wet room and kitchen area within the Pavilion. This is subject to approval through Alpha and subject to council consent at a later date. The investments in the facilities are noted, however provision is made within the agreement for such works to be undertaken at the Associations own risk. Nevertheless it does demonstrate the ongoing commitment of the Association.
- 3.4 Members are therefore asked to agree to the termination of the FMA at Clarendon with effect from August 2017. Members are reminded that when previous FMA's were terminated a one off payment of £10,000 was granted to the FMA holder to support the Holder in the first year of operation without the financial security provided by the FMA.
- 3.5 The Association wishes to continue with a management arrangement with the Council. It has pointed to the high levels of deprivation in the area and wishes to enhance the offering to young people by providing them with an opportunity to participate in homework clubs and other after school programmes and activities. The Association has referenced recent research which has highlighted that after school clubs and sport can improve the academic performance and the social skills of disadvantaged pupils.

The authors of the report, the Nuffield Foundation, state that the clubs are an easy vehicle for such enrichment.

- 3.6 Essentially the aim is to 'close the gap' between children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and those whose families may have access to greater resources. Members will be aware that homework clubs are not new; however there are barriers to such facilities such as charges and travel. The aim of this facility to minimise such barriers.
- 3.7 In the wider policy context, the Committee may also recall a report in 2014 by the Community Relations Council which identified a number of inequalities in attainment, one such group was protestant boys in disadvantaged communities.

The characteristics outlined above are not peculiar to this area; however, in this instance the Association wishes to invest to make a difference and is seeking Council support.

- 3.8 The Association has approached the Council with a proposal to seek permission to provide a building on site at Clarendon Playing fields which would be used for homework clubs and will offer a range of opportunities for young people from the community to help improve educational attainments and to improve social skills. It is proposed that this facility would be offered in parallel to the opportunity to participate in sporting activities which will provide additional health and wellbeing benefits. The Association has applied for and received Planning Consent.
- 3.9 The Association has undertaken to meet the cost of providing and equipping the building, estimated to be £117,000; the Association will also resource it through use of volunteers. It has a 12 person Committee all of who have received training in child protection. Members are asked to note that the building has received planning permission. The Association requires a licence from the Council to locate the building adjacent to the Playing Field.
- 3.10 In addition, the Association believes that the proposed building delivering programmes in parallel to programmes of use linked to the sports facilities will deliver significant potential outcomes in terms of health and well-being; tackling community safety issues as well as building life skills. To support this vision the Association has requested that the Council agree, in return for the investment, to enter into a preferential use agreement for use of the playing fields to support the initiative outlined above. This will be in line with a programme of use to be prepared by them. The Association

acknowledge that it will be required to book and pay for use of the pitches in line with Council policy. This arrangement is in line with arrangement in place with Ulster Council GAA for preferential use of 4 sites alongside an investment in the development of the sites.

3.11 Committee is asked to:

Agree to enter into a preferential use agreement based on an annual programme of use to be prepared by the Association and enter into a licence agreement, subject to SP&R approval for the siting of the building; this would be for a period of 10 years and would be subject to the continued use of the building for the purposes outlined and an ongoing programme of use of the pitches agreed by council each year. The arrangement would be reviewed in year 9 of the agreement.

3.12 In considering the above Members are further asked to note that the SP&R Committee this month is due to consider a proposal to move the redevelopment of the pitch at Clarendon to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme. The proposed scope of these works is the development of a mini 3G pitch with floodlighting at an estimated cost of £450,000

3.13 Members are also asked to note that a wider update on the physical programme, including pitches, is due to be taken to Committee in June in the context of the local area asset planning for the consideration of Members

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost of the facility and its resourcing will be met by the Association. The cost associated with the termination of the FMA and the preferential agreement will be offset by the receipt of income from use of the pitch and the return of the maintenance fee currently paid to the FMA holder. There will however be a one off cost of £10,000 associated with the transition payment as outlined above which will be from existing budgets.

The proposed capital project involving the redevelopment of the pitch is due to be considered by the SP&R committee in May as the Council's investment decision maker

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations actions will be integrated into the programme of planned activities, to be agreed with Council officers on an annual basis. SP&R Committee will consider the equality implications of the licence agreement.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Crumlin Star - Re Strangford Avenue

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the request from Crumlin Star FC to upgrade facilities at Strangford Avenue Playing Fields to meet Intermediate League Ground Requirements and to seek preferential use of the facility for the Club.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The committee is asked to;

- Note the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Committee will recall that it has received several reports relating to the provision of Intermediate League facilities for Crumlin Star between October 2016 and March 2017. While the focus of the reports was in respect of Strangford Avenue, Officers have met with the Club and is also pursuing the possibility of using Cliftonville Playing Fields as an interim measure pending a more permanent physical solution at Marrowbone Millennium Park as part of the Urban Villages Programme.

3.2 At a meeting with representatives from GAA Clubs using the facility under the terms of the Joint Management Board Agreement with the Ulster Council it was agreed that the Clubs would accommodate where possible the needs of Crumlin Star. In addition, following representation from Council Officers the IFA Intermediate Committee has agreed to accommodate time changes to fixtures to accommodate Crumlin where possible, providing floodlighting can be provided.

3.3 Officers have now contacted the IFA Grounds Criteria Team to request a site visit and to seek approval to use the Cliftonville pitch.

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

Following the site inspection it may be necessary to undertake works, however at this time it is not known whether there will be a financial cost. However, the costs if needed are anticipated to be small and can be accommodated within existing revenue budgets.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality implications.”

A Member stated that, whilst he had no specific objection to the previous proposal regarding the future management arrangements at the Clarendon Playing Fields and the preferential use agreement, he did feel that it highlighted the lack of progress made, to date, in terms of reaching a compromise regarding the request from Crumlin Star Football Club.

The Assistant Director acknowledged the Member’s point but explained that this mini pitch muga investment had been progressing through the capital programme since 2014 and was only now coming to fruition. She detailed that the Clarendon Development Association had over the years undertaken significant maintenance and investment in order to bring the facility up to Intermediate Standard. It had also provided storage facilities and purchased equipment to undertake the maintenance of the pitches at a cost of £20,000. In addition to this, the Association had undertaken to meet the cost of providing and equipping the building which was estimated to be approximately £117,000 and they also had submitted an application for Alpha Funding to provide a wet room and kitchen area within the Pavilion. All of which clearly demonstrated the Association’s ongoing commitment to the proposal.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services referred to the range of issues around football within North Belfast and he stressed that officers had undertaken extensive work to try and progress the matter. He advised that officers had met with Crumlin Star and were perusing the possibility of using Cliftonville Playing Fields as an interim measure, pending a more permanent physical solution at Marrowbone Millennium Park. The Director advised that officers were also in discussions with representatives from Urban Villages to try and secure investment for the Marrowbone Millennium Park as part of the Urban Villages Programme.

A further Member stated that he had previously requested additional information in respect of the estimated £50,000 cost of the required works to bring the facility up to intermediate standard and he asked that this be submitted to a future meeting.

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Following a query from a Member regarding the lack of input from the Irish Football Association (IFA), the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that officers were scheduled to meet with representatives from the IFA towards the end of May and these concerns would be raised.

The Assistant Director confirmed that an invitation had been extended to the IFA to attend a meeting of the People and Communities Committee but they had yet to respond.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was:

Proposed by Councillor Beattie; and
Seconded by Councillor McCabe:

That officers engage with Urban Villages requesting that it progresses designs for Marrowbone Millennium Park which would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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

Alexander Park Development Plan

The Assistant Director provided the Committee with an overview of the progress which had been made in relation to the main tasks which included the progression of a Park Development Plan, agreeing revised governance arrangements and agreeing a consultation/engagement framework.

The officer advised that the Stakeholder Working Group was meeting regularly and the Committee were asked to note that the Independent Facilitator, Blueprint Consultancy, might present to the Committee at a future date.

The Committee noted the update.

City Cemetery Heritage Project

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To give Members an update on the development of the Council’s City Cemetery Heritage Project.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- **Note the update provided**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Current Status

Members will recall that in July 2015 the Council received a development grant of £165,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop up a Stage 2 application for a project designed to protect and enhance the existing heritage in Belfast City Cemetery. An update on the progress was given to Committee in October 2016 when Members were informed that two professional teams – Conservation Architects and Interpretive Planners had been appointed to assist with the project. Since this time officers have continued to work with the appointed teams and Members are asked to note the following updates.

3.2 Professional Teams

Alastair Coey Architects have now developed the first draft of a Conservation Plan for the project. This document basically identifies the existing heritage within the site, why it's important and to whom and suggests policies to protect it. A Management and Maintenance Plan will then also be developed which will develop these policies into new and improved ways of working to ensure the heritage of the site is preserved and enhanced for future generations.

In addition Alastair Coey have also developed an initial condition survey which provides an analysis of the main heritage assets within the site, their current condition and suggested remedial works. This survey is now being costed by the project's QS with a view that these costs will be included in the Stage 2 application.

A draft Biodiversity Plan for the project has also been developed and outlines a number of initiatives designed to increase habitat creation and enhance the existing biodiversity on site. This plan also highlights a number of potential actions designed to encourage community and volunteer involvement in the site.

Based in the Conservation and Biodiversity Plans our Interpretive Planners are also currently developing their plan for the site which will outline the various stories we want to tell and recommend various tools to do this such as signage, information panels, interactive apps etc.

3.3 Pilot Initiatives

A range of pilot initiatives are also currently being undertaken on site designed to test certain ideas that if successful will be included in the stage 2 application with a view to being rolled out in the delivery phase. An educational outreach project designed to engage school children with the site is currently underway and we also have plans to deliver a pilot project around employability and training with respect to the site in areas such as horticulture, stone masonry, tour guiding etc.

3.4 Consultation

Due to the size and scope of the project it is necessary to consult and engage with a vast array of stakeholders both internal and external to Council. As such a detailed stakeholder engagement plan has been developed and is currently being implemented. Officers continue to engage with all stakeholders through a number of methods such as one to one meetings, facilitated consultations and presentations. This engagement will continue to evolve throughout the development phase and beyond.

3.5 Next Steps

Over the next 6 months Council officers will work alongside the professional teams to produce detailed plans for the project in advance of submitting a further application to HLF. Members are asked to note that the City Cemetery project is currently a Stage 2 – Uncommitted project on the Council's Capital Programme and any final Council investment decision by SP&R will be subject to a successful HLF Stage 2 bid and going through the Council's three stage approval process for capital projects.

3.6 Temporary Structure

As part of the development phase consideration is currently being given to installing some type of temporary structure on the site. There is currently very little shelter on site and this has proved a problem for the delivery of the educational outreach aspect of the programme as the young people involved currently have nowhere to shelter during inclement weather. Our interpretive planner has highlighted the need to have some sort of physical presence on site to act as a 'consultation hub' where people can come and learn more about the project and air their views.

As such a temporary office/classroom type accommodation is being located on site (at the site of the existing bell yard).

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The City Cemetery project is currently a Stage 2 – Uncommitted project on the Capital Programme and any final investment decision will be subject to a successful Stage 2 – HLF application

Temporary Accommodation

£45 per week for approx 6 months = £1,170 + £350 install costs + utility costs (heat/light) which is covered in HLF budget.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Parks Events Grants Scheme – Recommendations for Funding

The Committee considered a report which outlined the decisions taken by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, under delegated authority, regarding the Parks Events Small Grants applications received in Tranche 1 for events taking place in parks between 1st April and 30th September, 2017 (a copy of which was available [here](#)).

The Director advised that a total of 51 applications had been received for the grant and reported that these had been assessed by the Open Spaces and Active Living Unit (OS&AL), 39 applications had met the criteria for an award to be made and 12 had been unsuccessful.

The Committee noted that an Independent Assessment Panel had reviewed a sample (20%) of the applications and had been satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants and had approved the recommendations for awards.

The Director outlined that, in line with the ongoing strategic review of grant-aid within the Council, it was being suggested that officers would review the essential criteria for these grants to ensure that they were fit for purpose. He advised that the overarching aim was to enable application groups to contribute to the achievement of the Council's objective to provide attractive, animated, shared and safe parks and open spaces in the City as well as to align with the wider objectives of the Belfast Agenda. He undertook to update the committee accordingly if any further amendments were considered necessary.

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The Assistant Director advised the Committee that Tranche II of the Scheme had opened on 8th May and the submission deadline for receipt of applications was 12 noon on Friday 7th July.

Following consideration, the Committee noted the update report and agreed:

- that the Members would be forwarded an e-mail explaining the reasons as to why the 12 unsuccessful applications had failed to meet the funding criteria; and
- that future reports would include a breakdown of the Electoral Wards.

Operational Issues

Food Waste

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

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd April, it had been agreed that a report would be submitted to Committee to provide further information on the publicity campaign associated with the implementation of the new food waste policy.

The officer drew the Members' attention to the following key communications that had been used to promote the No Food Waste Campaign across the City:

- City Matters – the current edition (April – June 2017) had carried an article encouraging residents to use the correct waste container. This had also included an article informing residents that all recycling promotional literature was available in accessible format;
- website – the Council's website had been fully updated and detailed information was available [here](#) ;
- social media – the Council had promoted the campaign on social media such as Facebook and Twitter and this would be kept updated;
- Binovation app – the launch of the Binovation app had coincided with launch of the No Food Waste Campaign;
- letters and bin stickers – from 24th May until the end of May the Council's Recycling Team would be delivering letters that would inform residents about the campaign and they would also be applying "No Food Waste" stickers to the non-recyclable /general waste bins;
- vehicle graphics – the graphics on the refuse collection vehicles had been changed to reflect the message on the bin sticker, this would remain on the vehicles for the remainder of 2017/18; and
- radio campaign – the campaign was supported by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). A local radio campaign would be held during May/June to highlight the campaign.

The Head of Waste Management advised that, in addition to the above, there would also be a multitude of activities which would assist in the delivery of the No Food

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Waste Campaign which would include posters at recycling centres, Community Group talks and ongoing social media updates.

Following a query from a Member regarding the storage of kerby boxes the Head of Waste Management undertook to liaise with the Member directly.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Safety of 3G Pitches

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 At the People and Communities Committee meeting on 9 August 2016 and 11 October 2016, reports on the safety of 3G pitches were tabled. At the 1 November 2016 Council meeting the following request was minuted:

‘At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed that the People and Communities Committee be provided with clarification around the assertions which had been made by Murfitts Industries Limited that its tyres were ‘only sourced from within the EU’ and that its rubber granulate product was ‘classified as non-hazardous under normal use and handling conditions.’

1.2 This report provides further clarification from Murfitts Industries Ltd regarding the safety of their product and also provides results to the Committee on independent safety tests carried out by the Council.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the report.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Council currently has a contract in place with Laydex (NI) Ltd for the supply of rubber crumb. The product currently being supplied by Laydex (NI) Ltd is manufactured by Murfitts Industries Ltd.

3.2 Further information provided by Murfitts Industries Ltd

3.2.1 In response to our request for further product safety information, Murfitts Industries Ltd confirmed that:

'... at Murfitts we physically handle every tyre that is received on our plant. Each tyre has a unique serial number which identifies it. From this number we know if the tyre was produced before or after 2013. 2013 was the year the European regulations came in on the makeup of tyres. We only use tyres post 2013 in the production of our rubber crumb. Tyres pre 2013 are rejected and are used as alternative fuel.'

3.2.2 Murfitts Industries have also provided the Council with:

a) their public statement in response to recent media reports regarding the safety of rubber crumb is available on the Council's website. This document states that *'... at Murfitts we have our products regularly tested to all known standards to ensure that they are as safe as possible. These tests include toxicology reports, assessing our product for a variety of substances to ensure that these are within safe limits, if present at all'* and *'...we source all our raw material tyres from within the UK and check every single one that goes into our production process. For tyres to be legally manufactured and sold within the EU they must meet the requirements set out in the EU REACH Regulations (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) which stipulate limits for a wide range of substances used in manufacturing products of all kinds.'*

3.2.3

b) the latest report from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) dated 28 February 2017 which concluded that the *'ECHA has found no reason to advise people against playing sports on synthetic turf containing recycled rubber granules as infill material. This advice is based on ECHA's evaluation that there is a very low level of concern from exposure to substances found in the granules. This is based on the current evidence available'*.

3.2.4 A full copy of the ECHA press release and report may be obtained from <https://echa.europa.eu/-/recycled-rubber-infill-causes-a-very-low-level-of-concern>

3.2.5 As reported in the 9 October 2016 Committee report, Murfitts Industries Ltd had previously provided the Council with a technical report undertaken by Labosport which tested their SBR (styrene butadiene rubber) granulate to EN 71-3 Safety of Toys Part 3: Migration of Certain Elements. This standard

sets limits on a range of chemicals in order to minimise children's exposure to certain potentially toxic elements should the toy / material be ingested. The report concluded that the rubber granulate complied with the requirements of the standard.

3.3 Tests undertaken by the Council

3.3.1 As a further step, the Council has also carried out its own independent testing of rubber crumb samples from each of their 3G pitches for the most commonly cited cancer causing compounds in rubber crumb, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). All of the samples passed the EU REACH Regulation Article 28 standard for the eight specified polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

3.3.2 At this time, there continues to be no direct evidence to support a link between rubber crumb from 3G pitches and cancer. The Council continues to keep this matter under review.

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

None

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None."

The Committee noted the report.

Beat the Street NI Initiative

The Committee was advised that the Beat the Street NI Initiative was a community initiative that had been designed to inspire people to become more physically active by walking or cycling. The Assistant Director explained that the initiative was one of six funded by the National Charity Partnership, a partnership between Diabetes UK, the British Heart Foundation and Tesco, as part of their commitment to helping support 40,000 families to get active and reduce their risk of type 2 diabetes and heart and circulatory disease.

The Committee noted that, with support from the Council, Beat the Street NI had been delivered between 14th September and 2nd November, 2016. During this time 33,940 people had taken part, covering a total distance of 157,012 miles and 797,201 activity recordings (taps). A key focus had been to engage schools and school children and the Committee noted that 117 schools and 21,336 school children had participated in the initiative.

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The officer reported that it was planned to bring the Beat the Street NI Initiative back to Belfast and the surrounding area in September 2017, with the ambition of again engaging and supporting over 40,000 people to be more physically active. To support this, Intelligent Health, who deliver the initiative, had sought permission to place a number of the 'Beat Boxes' in Council owned parks and open spaces. The cost of installation and maintenance for Beat Boxes and associated insurance costs would be covered by Intelligent Health. They had also requested support from the Council to promote the initiative through its social media and publication offerings.

The Committee agreed to support the implementation of the Beat the Street Initiative during Autumn 2017.

Everybody Active - update report

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise committee of extended support for delivery of the participation strand of Sport NI's investment programme called Everybody Active 2020 (EBA2020).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to the continuation of Everybody Active 2020 to 31 March 2020, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**

3.0 Main report

Sport NI programme

3.1 Sport NI commissioned Belfast City Council, along with other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Everybody 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.

3.2 Belfast's programme has specific targets which identify women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need as priority. Participation evidence highlights disparities and inequalities within those sectors. Committee authorised officers to develop and commission a blend of providers through a public process to deliver Belfast's Everybody Active 2020 targets. Officers have commissioned a diverse range of partners with consideration to developing programmes which prioritise participation for

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women/girls in the 14-25 age group, during which drop off levels are greatest.

3.3 Participation Targets 2017 – 2018

AREA	Total participants	Women/girls	People with a disability	High Social Need	Sustained Participants
Belfast	25,012	14,256	4,001	8,253	7,503

3.4 Programme delivery will be linked to other investments including workforce development, outdoor recreation infrastructure, small grants and Peace IV to improve the outcomes from EBA2020.

3.5 Sport NI has recently confirmed a budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 in Belfast. This exceeds the indicative amount of £439,074 initially offered by Sport NI and has allowed delivery of additional programmes through the appointment of three additional partners in 2017-2018.

Partner Organisation	Main Target Group
Ulster Rugby-Disability Participation	Disability
Ulster Rugby-Female Participation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need - Disability
Irish Football Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls - Disability Inclusion
Ulster Squash	Women and Girls
Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need - Disability Inclusion
Disability Sport Northern Ireland (North and West)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport Northern Ireland (South and East)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Athletic Boxing	Women and Girls - Areas of High

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Association	Social Need
Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need

Additional Delivery Partners

Partner Organisation	Main Target Group
Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport NI- Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability - Areas of High Social Need

3.6 Current position

EBA2020 provides Council with a resource to support the physical activity and health outcomes within the Belfast Agenda framework. This resource has already enhanced delivery in specific areas including:

- Supporting long term participation by women/girls alongside Belfast hosting the Rugby World Cup and the under 19 UEFA soccer tournament in 2017
- Programming and development activities in partnership with sports governing bodies to support wider participation alongside stadia re-developments such as the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

Sport NI has recently confirmed a budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 in Belfast.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The programme is an opportunity for the Council to deliver against its equality and good relations objectives. These would be integrated into the performance frameworks for providers.”

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Following a query from a Member, the Assistant Director undertook to confirm with him directly whether the GAA had been considered as a Partner Organisation for the delivery of the programme.

The Committee agreed to the continuation of Everybody Active 2020 to 31st March 2020, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.

Woodvale Event - Cultural Celebrations

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association seeking permission to hold a week long programme of cultural celebration in Woodvale Park. The officer reported that for a number of years the group had been an active participant on the bonfire programme and that in 2007 it had been involved in the design of the Bonfire Beacon as an alternative to the traditional 11th July bonfire. It had successfully ran this event from 2008, attracting over 1000 people and for the past number of years the group had successfully used a bonfire frame instead of a beacon. The officer explained that the group was again intending to design and deliver a cultural event in Woodvale Park from 7th July to 11th July. She explained that the week long programme would be designed around interventions and would seek to engage local youths and the community in activities such as soccer tournaments, which would be provided by Live for Sport. The final day would see Woodvale Park play host to a family fun day celebration. The officer detailed that the Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association were seeking permission to construct a framed bonfire within the park and to stage associated community activities as part of its ongoing efforts to transform bonfires within the wider locality.

The Committee agreed to grant authority to Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association permission to hold a week long programme of cultural celebration in Woodvale Park in July 2017, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the Event Organisers ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the Council's satisfaction, including an event management plan, risk assessments and public liability insurance: and
- the event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainments licensing.

Street Naming

The Committee:

- approved the continuation of an existing street in the City namely Park Avenue Heights, off Park Avenue, BT4; and
- agreed to defer the naming in respect of Emma Court, off Albert Street, BT12 to enable more information to be obtained.

Request for Use of Lower Crescent

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The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from a number of young business owners who were seeking permission to hold an event called Focal, in Lower Crescent Open Space on Friday, 30th June and Saturday, 1st July which would showcase the best of young entrepreneurial talent in the food and drinks industry.

The Committee granted authority for Focal to hold an event on 30th June and 1st July in Lower Crescent Open Space, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence and any subsequent decisions made by the Licensing Committee.

Request for use of Blanchflower Playing Fields

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Wilgar Community Forum, the organisers of the Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival, for the use of Blanchflower Playing Fields to host an event within a marquee, from 4th - 6th August, 2017.

The Committee noted that this was the sixth year of the event, which was usually held at Wilgar Park. The organisers had advised that the event had greatly increased in size over the years and had now outgrown that venue.

The officer reported that the acts and running order for the event had not yet been confirmed but the organisers wished to showcase local acts and provide them with a platform and opportunity to portray their talents.

The Committee noted that due to the proposed date of the event it was anticipated that it might cause some delay to the pitch reinstatement programme, which in turn was likely to disrupt the booking of pitches at the start of the new football season at Blanchflower Playing Fields. She reminded the Members that, immediately following the winter play season, at the end of April, work commenced to repair worn areas, improve ground levels and ensure that the grass was re-established before the start of the new season in September.

A Member suggested that it might be possible for the pitch reinstatement to be carried out prior to the event.

The Committee granted authority to the organisers of the Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival to hold the event at Blanchflower Playing Fields from the period of 4th – 6th August, 2017, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

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- the organisers resolve all operational issues including Health and Safety through an agreed Event Management Plan to the satisfaction of Council officers;
- an appropriate legal agreement would be completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
- the organisers meet all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence; and
- agreed to wave the fees for the use of the facility on the basis that this would be a community based event organised by a not-for-profit organisation.

It was agreed further that the Assistant Director would investigate if the pitch maintenance could be progressed prior to the event to try and avoid the disruption of the booking of the pitches at the start of the new football season.

**Update in Respect of Waste Management
Site Visit (verbal)**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that, as requested at a previous meeting, a site visit had been arranged for Friday, 12th May to the Council's recycling facilities. The officer advised that this would provide an insight into some of the operations involving materials collected from Belfast residents and would include visits to the Dargan Road Waste Transfer Station, Bryson Recycling and the NWP Glenside (Composing Facility).

The Members were encouraged to attend and asked to let the Democratic Services Officer know as soon as possible if they would be available.

Noted.

Last Meeting

Councillor Garrett referred to the fact that this had been his last meeting in the role of Chairperson, as his replacement was due to be appointed in June, and thanked the Members and officers for their support over the previous year.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 10th May, 2017

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;
Mrs. L. Toland, Head of Economic and
International Development; and
Mr. D. Donnelly, Finance and Investment Manager;
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Carson, Dorrian and Johnston.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th April, omitting the decision under the heading 'Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan' which had been called-in, were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Matters Referred Back from Council

Notice of Motion - Use of Bus Lanes by Taxis

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 Beattie and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, to the Committee for consideration:

“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

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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.”

The Chairperson advised the Committee that requests to speak on the issue had been received from Mr. Jonathan Hobbs, NI Greenways, Mr. John Wright, Green Action, and Mr. Sean Duffy, Belfast Taxi Group. The Committee agreed to accede to the requests.

Mr. Hobbs explained that the cycling lobby was strongly against the proposal to extend the use of bus lanes by taxis. He outlined that he was pleased that the twelve week trial was coming to an end that he looked forward to seeing the results of the trial from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). He reported that the only public consultation which had been carried out on the issue had been in 2012, by the former Department of Regional Development. He stated that he would like to see a five year freeze on any additional vehicular access to bus lanes in order to allow the Belfast Rapid Transit scheme to realise its full potential and to allow the DfI to begin to build the Belfast Bicycle Network. He also explained that he felt a proper deputation on the issue should be considered from Sustrans NI.

Mr. Wright outlined to the Members that the issue with taxis using bus lanes was ill-advised not only in terms of safety for cyclists but with regards to a long-term transport plan for the city. He emphasised to the Committee that Belfast should be serious about promoting sustainable, low-carbon transport and that he felt it would be unwise and hasty for the Council to support an extension of the trial by a further 6 months.

Mr. Duffy explained that the trial had been an overwhelming success for the taxi industry as a whole, with customers having benefitted from cheaper fares and had been able to reach their destinations quicker. He reported that taxis were able to use bus lanes in a number of cities across Great Britain and Ireland, including Manchester, Glasgow, Cork, Dublin and Cardiff. He emphasised that taxis provided a vital community service in the city, by taking people who were unable to use public transport to hospital appointments and to school. He explained that taxi drivers would be severely disadvantaged if they were forced out of bus lanes, given the introduction of twelve hour bus lanes throughout the city, with a substantial increase in traffic as a result. He outlined that taxi drivers wanted the trial period to be extended for a further six months and that the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Peter May, had the power to extend it.

During discussion, a Member pointed out that many of the roads in Belfast were too dangerous to cycle on. He felt that cyclists shouldn't have to use bus lanes and that there should be a network of safe, dedicated cycle lanes.

A further Member stated that the debate should not be between those who cycle and those who use taxis and that, through the Belfast Agenda, Belfast should seek to be an accessible city for all and he highlighted the key role that taxis played in terms of providing accessible transport to many.

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Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie, and
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Committee supports the decision taken 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.

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

Presentation

McCadden Design - Place Positioning Update

The Chief Executive reminded the Members that the strategy for the City narrative had previously been agreed by the Council and that, as part of that procurement process, the Council had invited a number of organisations to create a visual design based on the narrative to market Belfast both locally and internationally.

She reported that the winning submission had been created by McCadden Design and advised the Members that Mr. G. Stewart was in attendance to present the proposed branding materials for the Committee's opinion. The Chairperson welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr. Stewart presented the Committee with the Place Positioning brand which he and his team had created and showed the Members a promotional video illustrating the brand identity. In response to a question from a Member, he explained that the video had been created specifically to attract a young demographic to Belfast.

During discussion, the Chief Executive pointed out that the branding had not been finalised and that consultation with the Members and other city stakeholders was crucial to the process. A number of Members stated that they felt that the branding was strong and appreciated that the design could be altered and used in different ways by different businesses to suit their needs. Mr. Stewart pointed out that, for the branding to be a success for Belfast, the City's partners needed to use and support it.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Stewart for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

Restricted Reports

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

City Centre Investment Fund

The Director of City Centre Development reminded the Members that, in February, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had approved that some of the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) would focus on Grade A office space.

The Finance and Investment Manager outlined to the Members that CBRE had been commissioned to provide a report on the Belfast office market, the NI debt market, potential intervention methods and strategy and criteria. He advised the Members that this work had since been completed.

The Chief Executive explained to the Members that there was an immediate demand for 400ft² of Grade A office space. The Director of City Centre Development added that the Council was not in competition with the private sector and that the Fund would be used to stimulate the market.

In response to a Member's question regarding the risk to the Council, the Finance and Investment Manager assured the Committee that the due diligence process would be rigorous and explained that the funding through the CCIF would be drip fed.

After discussion the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report; and
2. agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the high level parameters which were to be provided to the market to start the process of scheme identification and to support the structuring of investment in the future and the project prioritisation matrix as detailed.

Inner North Framework Update

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Committee with an overview of the work which had been undertaken on the Inner North West Masterplan and outlined the proposed timeline for engagement with the Members.

She explained that the area covered a range of complex areas with wide ranging issues and a variety of sensitivities, including planning appeals, land ownership, public and private sector interest and the old Northside scheme. She reported that, as a result of these complexities, a workshop was planned in order to provide the Members with an opportunity to inform the Masterplan work before engaging with wider stakeholders.

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During discussion, a Member expressed concern with the name, to which the Chief Executive clarified that the name 'Inner North West' was an interim name to differentiate it from being another 'quarter' of the city.

A further Member expressed concerns that the Masterplan needed to incorporate the Western Quarter and asked that it also be included in the workshop.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted that a workshop for Members was scheduled to take place on 17th May to present the initial findings and facilitate the direct input of Members into the Masterplan;
2. agreed that the Western Quarter would also be included at the workshop; and
3. agreed to receive the draft Masterplan at the next Committee meeting, ahead of public consultation.

2017-18 City Centre Programme

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Committee with an update on the programme of work which was underway in the City Centre. She highlighted a number of the key projects, which included the Belfast Story Destination Hub, the acquisition of the former Belfast Telegraph building, the City Centre Investment Fund, the promotion of City Centre living and the regeneration of the five Special Action Areas within the city centre and the surrounding districts.

She also outlined the importance of a number of emerging strategies which would be crucial to the success of the Programme, including the car parking strategy, and explained that the City Centre team was working with stakeholders to bring forward a brief for infrastructure which tied into the aspirations and growth projections as set out in the Belfast Agenda.

A Member pointed out that the Strategy should seek to address the needs of families living in the city centre, in terms of schools and play facilities.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the projects which were being progressed as part of the City Centre Strategy; and
2. noted that a workshop on the issue of city centre living would be held at a future date.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

East Bank Strategy and Proposed Consultation

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to allow further work by officers to be undertaken.

City Development Forum

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Following initial presentation to SP&R in March, this paper contains a revised proposal to create a City Development Forum as a pilot for 12 months with two key aims:

- To consider, at an early opportunity, proposals for major or strategically important development in the city; and
- To provide a forum to discuss related strategic issues related to development, including community engagement; job creation; education & skills; housing; transport; infrastructure; and investment.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree the creation of a City Development Forum as a pilot for 12 months, including the detailed operating protocols set out at Appendix 1.

2.2 It is recognised that in setting up this Forum, the Council also needs to provide a mechanism and support for an increased level of community engagement on development, planning and liveability. A more detailed report on community engagement is being presented to Committee alongside the City Development Forum, highlighting options to ensure this is achieved.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 The launch of the City Centre Investment Strategy in Sept 2015, combined with the recovering economy and a step change in our international marketing, has stimulated a significant upsurge of new development. This includes planning or construction for 14 purpose built student housing with over 5,000 bed spaces; 19 hotels (6 in construction, 13 with approved planning); and a growing number of Grade A Office schemes, including City Quays, All State, and Concentrix. A number of major development schemes, including North-East Quarter, By-Water and Sirocco are also being brought forward by the private sector.

- 3.2 To land these developments effectively, a wide range of strategic issues need to be considered. This includes how we engage and involve the local community, helping to ensure residents can help shape and benefit from the developments that are taking place. It also include themes such as job creation; education & skills; housing; transport; infrastructure; and investment; all of which will be considered in greater depth at the Forum.**
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Forum is establish as a pilot for 12 months and will be chaired by the Chief Executive, or her nominee, and administered by professional officers as an internal Council meeting. However Members have a major role providing strategic oversight for developments across the city, and ensuring that those developments help support both business and community needs. In light of this important role, it would be beneficial if there was a stronger mechanism to involve elected members in discussions before key decisions are required.**
- 3.4 The key benefits and objectives of the Forum are to:**
- align proposed physical and strategic developments with the vision of the Belfast Agenda;**
 - ensure greater certainty over the shape and impact of potential development at an early point in the process;**
 - consider wider strategic issues (referenced at ii above); how these shape the future needs of the city; and the impact that proposed development could have; and**
 - ensure the needs of all stakeholders, in particular the needs of the surrounding community, are identified and supported.**
- 3.5 The Forum is not a decision making body nor does it form part of the planning application process. However, it will have an important role to consider strategic developments in greater depth. This will provide a mechanism to review conceptual ideas at an early stage, and to facilitate more detailed discussions on strategic issues.**
- 3.6 The attached operating protocol provides further details on the format and criteria for the meeting; the frequency and membership; community interests, and the code of conduct.”**

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The Committee agreed to the creation of a City Development Forum as a pilot for 12 months, including the detailed operating protocols as set out [here](#) on the Council's website, with the Membership of the Forum to be amended as follows:

- The Chief Executive;
- The Director of Planning and Place
- The Director of City Centre Development; and
- Party Group Leaders or their nominee.

The Committee also noted that reports from the Forum would be submitted to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee every three months.

Regeneration Engagement Plan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose a new engagement plan covering strategic regeneration across Belfast, with specific focus on the city centre. The plan will engage a wide range of stakeholders, with a particular aim to involve and empower all Belfast residents, ensuring impacts of major developments are understood and benefits shared.**
- 1.2 This report sits alongside the proposal to create a new City Development Forum for Members, with the objective to improve consideration of strategic regeneration schemes, and related thematic issues, at an early stage.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the proposal to:**
- **develop and implement an engagement strategy, linked to regeneration in the city, with the primary aim of delivering physical, social and economic benefits to residents, businesses and other existing shareholders.**
 - **apply and extend existing models of community benefit including skills academies, social clauses, and social regeneration initiatives being pioneered by the Innovation Factory and small business start.**
 - **allocate via an internal trawl a dedicated resource to develop and implement the strategy. If members considered it to be appropriate this could be done on a temporary basis and then reconsidered.**

3.0 Main report

Strategic Regeneration

3.1 The City Centre Regeneration Strategy sets out eight areas for development, including growth in employment, tourism, retail, and city centre living. Since the publication of the strategy, in Sept 15, significant regeneration has started to come forward, including:

- **New offices under development at City Quays, the Linen Quarter and by Allstate and Concentrix adjacent to Central Station;**
- **Six hotels currently in construction and a further 13 with approved planning;**
- **A 48,000 square foot extension to Primark, along with a number of new entrants to the retail market;**
- **5,000 new student bedspaces have been approved, with flagship developments such as John Bell House now complete.**

3.2 The pace of development is increasing year on year, with major planning applications expected later this year for the North-East Quarter, Transport Hub, Sirocco and redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph building. There are a number of strategic schemes outside the City Centre, including Giant's Park, and the King's Hall health hub; while there is also agreement in principle to use part of the City Centre Investment Fund to help finance more Grade A offices.

3.3 The Belfast Agenda highlights the City Ambition to go even further, with 1.5m sq foot of Grade A offices and 2,500 hotel bedspaces created by 2021; 70,000 new residents and of 50,000 jobs created by 2035.

3.4 Regeneration Engagement Plan

The City Centre Regeneration Strategy will play an important part in achieving the ambition set out in the Belfast Agenda. Council is committed to ensuring inclusive growth for the city and to ensure that all Belfast residents feel part of and benefit from city centre regeneration. Council is also committed to job growth so engagement will also include the existing commercial and business sector as well as the arts and cultural sector.

3.5 While the growing pace of development is welcome, to help ensure that residents and the business community in the city

feel part of and benefit from the regeneration of the city, it is proposed that an engagement plan be established to include;

- **Belfast residents with emphasis as required on communities adjacent to significant developments within the city centre and wider areas**
- **City centre and other businesses, arts and culture organisations/other key stakeholders**
(for the sake of brevity in the report, further reference to all these organisations will be referred to as ‘business’)

3.6 The Regeneration Engagement Plan will focus on three key area;

- **Physical Inclusion**
- **Social Inclusion**
- **Economic Inclusion**

3.7 Physical Inclusion

This focuses on capacity building of residents and businesses to enable them to understand impacts of proposed physical developments, including transportation infrastructure, and be fully involved in the development of strategic projects.

3.8 Engagement will include:

- **leadership, vision and direction on involvement;**
- **managing independent technical advice as required for residents where deemed necessary; and**
- **developing and implementing a range of local consultation exercises, with elected members, residents, businesses/stakeholders and partners;**

3.9 Social Inclusion

Key themes of engagement will be connectivity and working to address both physical and perceived barriers between the city core and its surrounding areas for both residents and business community and ensuring that the benefits of city centre developments are fully realised and captured. Underpinning this entire approach will be the concept of shared space and how it becomes inherent in the development of any policy or project.

3.10 The engagement plan will also include provision for positive engagement enabled by a series of proactive, capital ‘Meanwhile uses’ on vacant sites and vacant building within

the city centre. These uses will help drive footfall into areas that require it to assist local businesses and/or address issues of safety. It will also seek to ensure that all Belfast residents from across the city have an opportunity to be involved in the concept/design and delivery/use of these 'Meanwhile uses'. This will help to create a sense of ownership of and pride in the city centre, and additionally provide an opportunity for citizens to learn, via this process, about development and design principles.

3.11 Economic Inclusion

This area of engagement will tie in with Planning and Place, the statutory consultation process on development management, and the Economic Development Department/Belfast Employability and Skills teams. The aim is to facilitate a process that creates a pipeline between potential jobs that may be coming forward with new developments and how residents can be upskilled, access and become job ready for these positions.

3.12 To achieve this objective existing models of economic inclusion will be extended and developed to major regeneration projects coming forward. This includes:

- Use of social clauses in procurement contracts
- Skills academies relevant to key developments coming forward, e.g. construction, hospitality or retail.
- Adopting and applying the economic regeneration approach pioneered through the Innovation Factory and Small Business Start.

3.13 Worksteams on city centre engagement will tie in with BCC Consultation and Engagement Framework across the council including Planning and Place consultation processes on the LPD and link closely with the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department to seek to ensure all sections of the community are reached.

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

Evidence from previous experience suggests that a dedicated staff resource is required to take forward the significant consultation and engagement issues associated with regeneration.

3.15 The staff post could initially be allocated from within existing Council resource via an internal trawl, with additional work

being commissioned out as required. There is sufficient budget within the City Centre Team to fund this arrangement.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Any engagement programmes taken forward by the City Centre team will be equality screened. A map illustrating the city centre boundary is also attached.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Belfast Economic and Social Policy

The Committee considered the undernoted 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. Likewise, they have noted the importance of creating an economy that supports inclusive growth, ensuring that residents can take advantage of the development of the city.

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:

- 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;
- note the proposed next steps set out at paragraph 3.2.4 below, as agreed by SP&R Committee on 21 April 2017.

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.
- (v) Undertake detailed analysis work on the likely impact of Brexit on Belfast in order to inform future interventions and to ensure sustainable and stable growth in the future.
- (vi) Ensure an ongoing focus on an inclusive growth strategy in order to enable all Belfast residents to benefit from the developments in the city.

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.”

In response to a request from a Member, the Chief Executive agreed to engage with Mr. Michel Barnier, European Chief Negotiator for Brexit, in relation to the issues affecting Belfast.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Tourism - Annual Action Plan

The Chief Executive provided the Members with an update on the work which had been carried out to date on the Integrated Tourism Strategy for the city. She reported that tourism was a key priority through the City Development and Growing the Economy themes of the Belfast Agenda.

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She highlighted to the Members that the key areas of focus and the associated budgets for 2017-2018 were:

- Business Tourism Investment – where a budget of £200,000 had been set aside and would be matched by investment from Tourism NI;
- Developing Local Tourism Infrastructure – where a budget of £130,000 had been set aside, where officers would also engage with partners, including Tourism NI, to lever additional budgets to increase investment in this area;
- Improved Tourism Research and Analysis - with a budget of £45,000;
- Visitor Management – where a nominal budget of £10,000 had been set aside, with additional investment required from other partners; and
- Food Tourism – with a budget of £40,000.

She reported that, given the impending Regional Tourism Strategy and the finalisation of the Belfast Agenda in the coming months, it was proposed that a mid-term review of the current Integrated Tourism Strategy be carried out. She outlined that the review would include the potential impact of Brexit on the tourism economy, the recent growth and the continued push to grow the tourism accommodation, the ongoing investment in the city centre and the new city centre visitor attraction.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. Noted the contents of the report; and
2. Noted the key areas of focus for 2017-2018, and endorsed the delivery of the actions and associated budgets as outlined.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

International Relations Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.0 **The purpose of the report is to update Members on international relations work undertaken in the period since the March 2017 update to Committee and to outline planning work under way on a number of outbound and inbound visits from Sister Cities partners in the coming weeks.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the update on the international relations activity since March 2017, including the planned inward and outbound visits to take place in the coming weeks.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will be aware that the International Relations Framework 2016-2021 was approved by the Committee in November 2016. The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage as a place to visit, study, work and do business. The Framework will deliver primarily on the formal relationships already in place through the Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin and the developing relationships with London. New areas of opportunities will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.

3.2 In addition to the city-to-city linkages, the Council and its partners have, for a number of years, taken part in key international events to showcase the city, develop business opportunities and support our local companies to expand into international markets. These events include MIPIM which takes place in Cannes each March and which was the subject of a report to this Committee last month, and South by Southwest (SXSW) which takes place in Austin, Texas each year.

3.3 A report to the March 2017 City Growth and Regeneration Committee set out a range of outputs achieved in the year to date on the international relations activity. Since that date, a number of additional international engagement events have taken place while work is ongoing on a programme of outbound and inbound visits from Sister Cities and other key partners. An overview of the key work in the period since March 2017 is set out below:

3.4 SXSW 2017

Belfast City Council, along with partners from Invest NI, Digital Catapult NI, Generator NI and the Department of International Trade (DIT), participated in SXSW 2017 – the annual music and digital business event that takes place in Austin, Texas. In total six bands and twenty-six businesses were collectively

supported to attend. Four of these companies were supported by the Council and were attending the event for the first time.

3.5 A joint programme of engagement took place over the week from 11-18 March 2017. Belfast City Council support focused on a number of priority activities including:

- “Output Belfast”, a specific networking event to promote the film, digital and music sectors within the City and provide participants an opportunity to invite and do business with key international buyers. This event was by invitation only and attendees included buyers from Sony, Warner Brothers, Spotify, Blizzard entertainment, ThinkSync Music, Kobalt and Believe Digital. Other guests included key contacts from the City of Austin, Austin Chamber of Commerce, Newfoundland and Labrador Film Development Corporation, The White House, Swissnex Boston, Mayor of London, Spotify and CTM Nashville. The event attracted more than 750 people throughout the day**
- Engagement in and attendance at the DIT exhibition stand in the main convention centre. The stand was used as a focal point for the Belfast presence and offered opportunities for meet and greets. Over 3,000 people visited the stand over the four days including Greg Hands, Minister of State in the Department for International Trade. Two Virtual Reality demos from Belfast companies took place and a wide range of meetings took place including DELL, City of Miami Film and TV Commission, Core Innovation Capital, Isovera and The Texas Music Office**
- Support to help four new music and tech businesses to take part in the event for the first time.**

3.6 A review meeting between all partners is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. This will focus on the relative merits of attending the event as well as exploring opportunities to reprioritise areas of investment. It will provide an opportunity to take a long-term planning approach to the event in order to maximise the return on investment and also to consider mechanisms for exposing new businesses to this opportunity and supporting their engagement. In the context of the emerging Place Positioning Strategy, it will enable the team to look at how this event can be used to profile Belfast as a dynamic business location that is attractive to and supportive of new, creative businesses. As part of this process there will be a formal evaluation of outcomes for

participants. An interim review has recorded the following outcomes for the four Council-supported businesses:

- Potential sales of £185,000 identified
- 1 company to follow up with UK head of music for Sony Playstation, Mattel group and Spotify;
- 1 company to meet with Amazon Prime to identify new workflow patterns to help secure ongoing work for a second season of a hit Amazon Prime TV show;
- 1 company to hold follow-up meetings with Facebook and You Tube regarding developing 360 VR technology for use in live events and visual performances;
- 1 company has a planned collaboration with Kieron Pepper (The Prodigy) now ACM on a programme to help students develop stronger visual brands;
- 1 company established a relationship with High Snobiety magazine for provision of video content (2million Facebook followers).

- 3.7** Comments taken from participating bands and Belfast City Council-supported businesses are attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.8** Officers are currently working on follow-up opportunities which were identified as part of the SXSW visit. There is a strong commitment from Austin City Council's Creative Industries Development Manager to work collaboratively with Belfast City Council in an informal capacity to achieve mutually-beneficial opportunities for our businesses. This includes showcasing joint creative and digital business collaborations at SXSW in 2018 and organising and facilitating meetings between Belfast and Austin-based creative companies prior to attendance in 2018.
- 3.9** Austin City Council also has a contractual relationship with Capitol Factory, a co-working space in Austin. They have agreed to explore opportunities for utilising this co-working space on favourable terms for Belfast businesses making return journeys to Austin. We are currently looking at how the Innovation Factory on Springfield Road could be used to reciprocate this offer for Austin-based businesses seeking to develop a European presence or doing business in the city.
- 3.10** In addition, US Accelerator company, 500 Start-ups, is looking at Belfast as a potential base for one of its global accelerators. Officers are sharing information with 500 Start-ups to support them in the development of a Belfast-specific proposal. In addition, Warner Brothers and Spotify are keen to develop further relationships with Belfast City Council in terms of the

Output Belfast conference and the identification of new talent that may be of interest to them.

3.11 Help Musicians UK are also keen to work in partnership with Belfast City Council in terms of providing added value to events and initiatives both in Belfast and internationally. Opportunities exist to look at how this could work for events such as Audio Visual Arts Festival (AVA), SXSW and the Output Belfast Conference.

3.12 Other Sister City and international engagement activity

In addition to the SXSW engagement and attendance at MIPIM (feedback reported to the Committee in April 2017), the following activity has been undertaken:

- Preparatory work for the visit to Shenyang and Beijing in early May. This visit will focus on developing new education linkages and Council representatives will be accompanied by colleagues from our key educational establishments**
- Planning work for the May 2017 visit to Nashville. This visit will focus on developing the business opportunities between both cities, as a follow-up to the recent visit to Belfast by the Nashville Healthcare Council**
- Engagement with Dublin City Council to explore additional opportunities for business engagement and investment, particularly in the post-Brexit scenario**
- Planning work for incoming delegation from Irish Business Association of New York. Working with the US Consulate and Invest NI, we will put together a one-day programme for the early June visit, focusing on new investment opportunities in the City**
- Planning work for an incoming visit from Boston in early June 2017. This visit will comprise a mixed delegation with interests across a range of fields, particularly education and business**
- Hosting three inward visits from US-based universities who are exploring opportunities to expand their overseas study programmes**
- Co-hosting the first visit to Belfast by the Wenzhou Chamber of Commerce (China), focusing on investment and property development opportunities**
- Hosting a delegation from Stockholm City Council who were visiting Belfast to explore opportunities around port development and sustainable technologies investment.**

3.13 A follow-up progress report will be brought back to the Committee in October 2017. It will set out the key deliverables from the various inward and outward visits that are to take place in the coming months and will also outline the programme of activity for the second half of the year.

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

No specific financial and resource implications. The budgets for each of these activities have been approved by the Committee as part of the departmental estimates.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The International Relations Framework has been equality screened.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

Belfast Bike Scheme

The Head of Economic and International Development provided the Members with an update on the Belfast Bikes Scheme which had been launched on 27th April, 2015. She advised the Committee that, to date, there were 41 stations across the city and that the usage figures were as follows:

	April 2015 - March 2016	April 2016 - March 2017
Annual	3,504	4,930
Casual	2,400	5,302
Journeys	183,522	223,688

She reminded the Members that a further two stations were being funded under the Building Successful Communities Fund, at Carlisle Circus and Twin Spires, Falls Road, with three to be funded by Urban Villages, the locations of which were still to be agreed.

The Committee was advised that, at Year End, March 2017, revenue income had been £251,064 and total revenue costs were £466,474.

The Members were advised that there had been a significant increase in the level of vandalism in Year 2 of the scheme, with the cost of theft and vandalism having increased ten-fold, from £1,805 in Year 1 to £18,807 in Year 2. The Head of Economic and International Development advised the Committee that the recent increase had resulted in 210 out of the 576 bikes being out of operation due to either theft or vandalism. She pointed out that whilst certain hotspots had been identified earlier in the year, with

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bikes having been removed from certain stations overnight, the problem had worsened and all stations had been impacted to some extent.

The Committee was advised, however, that the Bike scheme was very popular and that this had resulted in a number of requests to extend the scheme across the City. She explained that the recent additions had demonstrated the need to undertake a strategic review of the scheme before any further developments took place. She reported that a workshop was being proposed as part of the review, which would look at resolving the vandalism challenge, the pricing policy, a policy for deciding future locations of docks and opportunities for alignment with wider city developments and future funding options.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted and approved the update on the Belfast Bikes Scheme;
2. noted that a further report on progress would be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in June 2017; and
3. approved the request to hold a workshop in late June 2017, to provide an update on the strategic review of the scheme.

Last Meeting

Councillor Graham referred to the fact that this had been her last meeting in the role of Chairperson, as her replacement was due to be appointed in June, and thanked the Members and officers for their support over the previous year.

Chairperson

Extract of Minute

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

12th April, 2017

Restricted Item

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

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 17th May, 2017

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Mrs. L. McGovern, Solicitor; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Aldermen McCoubrey and Spence.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority

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

Applications for Extended Hours

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that the Council's City and Neighbourhoods Services Department held various types of Entertainments Licences for those parks and open spaces which it managed across the City, which were transferred to organisers for the duration of their event. Under the terms of those licences, entertainment was permitted to take place from Monday to Sunday between the hours of

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11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. and special conditions were attached to each licence in relation to occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints. He drew the Members' attention to applications which had been received for the extension of the standard hours on the Entertainments Licences for the following parks:

11th July Event, Woodvale Park

The Building Control Manager reported that the Twaddell and Woodvale Residents' Association had requested that the Committee give consideration to permitting an outdoor musical event to run until 1.00 a.m. on the night of 11th July within the Woodvale Park.

He explained that the Residents' Association, which had, on 9th May, been granted the use of the venue by the People and Communities Committee, had, for several years, been an active participant in the Council's Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and that it had been involved in the design of the bonfire beacon, as an alternative to the traditional bonfire. The organisers had stated that the event taking place on the night of 11th July would bring to a close a family fun day, consisting of live entertainment, face painting and other activities and would conclude a week-long programme of cultural celebration.

He reminded the Committee that, in June, 2016, it had approved a similar request for an event which had been held in the park on 11th July, 2016 and that it had, at recent meetings, agreed that the standard hours on the Entertainments Licences for Custom House Square be extended beyond 11.00 p.m. to facilitate a number of events/festivals taking place there over the coming months. He pointed out that, since the Residents' Association was seeking to extend the hours permitted under an existing licence condition, rather than vary the Entertainments Licence itself, there had been no requirement for the application to be advertised. He confirmed that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had objected to the application and that the Police Service had stated that previous events of this nature had helped to ease tensions within the wider area. Both the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service would be invited to attend meetings in advance of the festival in order to examine public safety, transport, traffic management and wider operational issues.

He reported further that inspections in previous years by officers of the Building Control Service of similar events being held on the night of 11th July in the Woodvale Park had revealed no issues. Officers were working currently with the organisers to agree an event management plan and a layout plan for the site and to formulate an appropriate information letter to be forwarded to local residents. He added that the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had confirmed that it had received no complaints in relation to last year's event and that it would seek to ensure that an appropriate noise management plan was developed, in consultation with all relevant parties, with a view to keeping noise breakout and disturbance to a minimum.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Woodvale Park be extended to enable entertainment to take place till 1.00 a.m. on the night of Tuesday, 11th July, as part of the

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programme of cultural celebration taking place with the park during that week, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

Féile an Phobail, Falls Park

The Building Control Manager reported that Féile an Phobail would, this year, be taking place between 3rd and 13th August and that the organisers had sought the Committee's approval to extend the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Falls Park to enable entertainment to be provided there until midnight on each of those nights. Approval for the use of the venue had been granted by the People and Communities Committee at its meeting on 4th April.

The organisers had stated that the ability to operate until midnight would allow them to develop a programme of diversionary activities for young people, which would assist in addressing ongoing antisocial behaviour issues, and to implement activities involving sport and discussion. The programme of entertainment was in the process of being finalised but would be similar to that of previous years.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 20th May, 2016, it had granted approval for the organisers to operate till midnight on all eleven nights of the festival and that it had, at recent meetings, approved similar requests for forthcoming events being held in Custom House Square. Since this 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. He pointed out that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had objected to the application and that they would each be involved in pre-event meetings to review in detail public safety, traffic management, transport and wider operational issues. The organisers had submitted to the Building Control Service a draft event management plan and a proposed site plan and would again be engaging with local residents to address any concerns. He added that officers had, in the past, undertaken inspections of the venue whilst entertainment had been taking place and had identified no issues relating to health, safety and welfare management.

In terms of noise nuisance, he confirmed that one complaint had been received in 2016 and that two had been received in 2015, none of which had necessitated formal action being taken. As in previous years, officers were working with the organisers and their representatives to ensure that an appropriate noise management plan was produced, in order to ensure that noise from the marquee would not cause undue disturbance to local residents and businesses.

The Committee agreed to extend the standard hours on the Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Falls Park, to enable entertainment to take place till midnight from Thursday, 3rd till Sunday, 13th August, as part of Féile an Phobail, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

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Focal Festival, Lower Crescent Park

The Building Control Manager informed the Members that the organisers of the Focal Festival, which was due to take place on 30th June and 1st July, had requested that the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Lower Crescent Park be extended until midnight on both nights.

He reported that the festival centred upon the celebration and promotion of local foods and drinks and that the organisers had engaged a number of musical and other acts in order to enhance the atmosphere and experience for patrons. Approval for the use of the park had been granted by the People and Communities Committee at its meeting on 9th May.

He explained that this was the first time that a request to operate beyond 11.00 p.m. had been received for this location and reminded the Committee that it had, in the past, approved requests for events being held in similar venues across the City. Since this 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. He confirmed that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had objected to the application and that they would each be consulted on public safety, traffic management, transport and wider operational issues in the lead up to the festival. The organisers were working with the Building Control Service to agree a draft event management plan, a site plan and an appropriate occupancy level and would be distributing a letter to local residents informing them of the event. They were working also with the Council's Environmental Protection Unit to formulate an effective noise management plan.

The Committee agreed that the standard hours on the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Lower Crescent Park be extended to enable entertainment to take place till midnight on 30th June and 1st July, as part of the Focal Festival, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions

Fitzgerald's Bar, 123-127 New Lodge Road

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 18th January, it had agreed that, in future, any person applying for the renewal, variation or grant of an Entertainments Licence who had been convicted of an offence under the Entertainments Licensing legislation, would be invited to appear before the Committee to outline the reasons why their application should be approved.

Accordingly, he drew the Members' attention to an application which had been received from Dicey Reilly's Limited for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Fitzgerald's Bar. He reported that Mr. S. Mailey, a director of the company, together with Ms. A. Campbell, the manager of the bar, had, in March, 2014, been convicted of providing entertainment without an Entertainments Licence on two

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occasions in 2013. They had each been fined a total of £400 and been ordered to pay costs of £207. In June, 2016, officers had again discovered that entertainment was taking place without a licence. That had resulted in Mr. Mailey being given a conditional discharge and Ms. Campbell being fined £250 and each having to pay costs of £69.

He explained that, following those offences, officers had met with both Mr. Mailey and Ms. Campbell to explain the application process governing the grant of an Entertainments Licence and had advised them not to provide further entertainment until that process had been concluded. However, despite repeated warnings and advice, officers had discovered entertainment taking place within the bar on two further occasions in 2016.

The Council's Solicitor reported that, on the previous day, Dicey Reilly's Limited, the applicant company, had been fined £1,000 for providing entertainment on 9th December, 2016 without an Entertainments Licence and had been given a conditional discharge for a period of twelve months for a similar offence relating to 30th October 2016. Mr. Mailey and Ms. Campbell had each been fined £385 and had received conditional discharges for twelve months for the offences which had been detected on 30th October and 9th December, respectively. Dicey Reilly's Ltd, Mr. Mailey and Ms. Campbell had each been ordered to pay court costs of £75.

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that the premises operated currently as a public house, with ground floor and first floor bar areas. The applicant was seeking to provide entertainment in both of those areas from Monday to Saturday till 1.00 a.m. and on a Sunday till midnight and was working with Council officers to agree the appropriate occupancy levels. 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 latest offences had been detected, officers had met with the applicant 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. He concluded by pointing out that the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had confirmed that no noise complaints had been received in relation to noise breakout or patron dispersal from the bar.

The Committee was informed that Ms. A. Campbell, the manager of Fitzgerald's Bar, and Mr. M. Halleron, the applicant's legal representative, were in attendance and it agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain further information from them around the application.

Mr. Halleron informed the Members that the failure by his client to obtain an Entertainments Licence in the past had been due primarily to the relevant documentation not being submitted to the Council, despite it having been completed. He explained that the company accepted full responsibility for the offences and that it was now co-operating fully with Council officers to ensure that it complied with all of the requirements associated with the application process. He highlighted the detrimental impact which both the level of fines and the inability to provide regular entertainment had had upon the business and concluded by stressing that the applicant would, in future, ensure that the venue was operated to the satisfaction of the Council.

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Ms. Campbell outlined the measures which had now been put in place to improve the overall operation of the premises, which had included raising awareness amongst staff of safety and other issues and the need to keep the log book updated, and reiterated the point which had been made by Mr. Halleron around the future operation of the bar.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Campbell and Mr. Halleron for their contribution.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to grant a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Fitzgerald's Bar, 123-127 New Lodge Road.

Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence – Thompson's Garage, 3 Patterson's Place

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for Thompsons Garage, based on the Council's standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment.**

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Thompsons Garage 3 Patterson's Place Belfast BT1 4GW	WK/201600933	Mr Stephen Boyd Endless Music Limited 41 Downshire Road Belfast

- 1.2 A copy of the application form has been circulated to the Committee.**
- 1.3 A location map has been circulated to the Committee.**
- 1.4 Members are reminded that all applications for the grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences must be brought before Committee for consideration.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations received, you are required to consider the application in light of the legal proceedings against the applicant and determine if you wish to refuse the application for an Outdoor Entertainments Licence on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of offences under the Order.**

2.2 Should Members be satisfied that the application need not be refused you are then required to:

1. approve the application for the grant of the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence, or
2. approve the application for the grant of the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence with special conditions.

2.3 If the licence is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the Recorders Court.

2.4 In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, outdoor entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Members will recall that, at the meeting on 19th April, the Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence, with a condition attached requiring the licensee to attend meetings with the PSNI, the Security Industry Authority and other relevant parties, as and when required. These meetings would be facilitated by the Council in order to discuss any issues arising from the operation of the premises.

Details of the Premises and Proposals

3.2 The areas currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

- Ground Floor Bar, with a maximum capacity of 225 persons.
- Mezzanine Floor, with a maximum capacity of 190 persons.

3.3 The days and hours during which the premises are currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

- Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 3.00 am the following morning

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- 3.4 The premise operates as a public bar and nightclub with entertainment being provided on both floors in the form of DJs.
- 3.5 The applicant proposes to provide entertainment within the external beer garden, which is located to the rear of Thompsons Garage, towards Donegall Square East.
- 3.6 The proposed occupancy of the external beer garden will be 104 persons.
- 3.7 Members are advised that the maximum indoor occupancy for the premise of 415 persons will be managed in conjunction with the agreed maximum occupancy of the external area to ensure numbers do not exceed capacity.
- 3.8 The days and hours during which entertainment is proposed to be provided within the external area, is as follows:
- Monday to Saturday 11.30 am to 11.00 pm, and
 - Sunday 12.30 pm to 11.00 pm.
- 3.6 The applicant has advised that, if a licence is granted for the area, it is his intention to provide entertainment in the form of solo performers, live bands or a DJ through the in-house speaker system.
- 3.7 The proposed area is covered by the existing Liquor Licence. Layout plans of the proposed external area have been forwarded to the Committee.

Previous Convictions

- 3.8 The application is also being placed before the Committee because both Mr Stephen Boyd and Endless Music Limited were convicted of offences under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1985 at Belfast Magistrates' Court, on two occasions: 13 May 2014 and 24 May 2016.

First Conviction

- 3.9 The first conviction on 13th May, 2014 arose following breaches of the terms and conditions of the Entertainments Licence in that they failed to manage the permitted occupancy and migration between licensed areas. They also failed to ensure that the permitted numbers for the Smoking Area was limited to 50 persons as the area was found to be overcrowded.

- 3.10 As a result, Mr Stephen Boyd and Endless Music Limited were fined a total of £800 and ordered to pay court costs of £69.

Second Conviction

- 3.11 The second conviction on 24th May, 2016 arose following breaches of the terms and conditions of the Entertainments Licence in that the 2nd Floor of the premises was found to be overcrowded and in excess of the permitted occupancy.
- 3.12 As a result, Endless Music Limited was fined £750 and ordered to pay court costs of £66.
- 3.13 Following these offences, officers met with Mr Boyd and his representatives to review all their procedures to ensure that appropriate measures were in place to prevent a recurrence.
- 3.14 Members may recall that details of the first conviction was brought to your attention previously and both convictions were recently considered at your meeting in April 2017 in relation to the application for the renewal of the Indoor Entertainments Licence and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the licence.
- 3.15 The applicant and/or his representatives will be available to discuss any matters relating to the application at your meeting.

Representations

- 3.16 Notice of the application has been advertised and no written representation has been lodged.

PSNI

- 3.17 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that it has no objections to the application and has previously discussed the details of it when dealing with previous matters. A copy of its correspondence has been circulated to the Committee.

NIFRS

- 3.18 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to the application and has confirmed that it has no objections to the application.

Health, Safety and Welfare Inspections

- 3.19 Members are advised that officers have carried out a total of 7 During Performance Inspections on the premises since 20th April 2016. On each occasion, all technical matters were satisfactory and the appropriate measures and management procedures were being implemented effectively.
- 3.20 Extensive meetings have also been held with the applicant regarding previous matters associated with the renewal application, future plans to improve the access and egress from the venue and how the applicant proposes to manage the migration of patrons between the relevant areas.

Noise Issues

- 3.21 Given the nature of the entertainment at the venue, an acoustic report outlining the measures to be taken to ensure minimal disturbance to neighbouring residential premises, both due to noise breakout or from patron activity, was requested and forwarded to the Council's Environmental Protection Unit (EPU).
- 3.22 EPU has recommended that, in the event that an Entertainments Licence being granted, the Committee consider the inclusion of a condition requiring the applicant to maintain a noise monitoring logbook to ensure compliance with the agreed music noise level of 79dB_{L_{Aeq5minutes}} and to keep a regular check on volume levels at noise sensitive facades when outdoor entertainment is being provided.
- 3.23 Members are advised that the applicant has agreed to this condition being added to any Entertainments Licence being granted and officers will ensure that the technical noise matters are addressed before the Entertainments Licence is granted.
- 3.24 Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.25 Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment but this is catered for within existing budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed to grant a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for Thompson’s Garage, 3 Patterson’s Place, with a condition to be attached requiring the licensee to maintain a noise monitoring logbook to ensure compliance with the agreed music noise level of 79dB_{L_{Aeq5minutes}} and to check on a regular basis volume levels at noise sensitive facades when outdoor entertainment is being provided.

Applications for the Grant of Temporary Street Trading Licences – East Bridge Street/Great Victoria Street

The Committee was advised that an application had been received from Ms. N. Coffey of Mixtape Marketing for the grant of Temporary Street Trading Licences for the free distribution of a soft drink, at the entrance to Central Station in East Bridge Street and in Great Victoria Street, near its junction with Glengall Street, in order to promote the product. The applicant was proposing to operate at both of those locations on 2nd June, between the hours of 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m., from a sampling stand measuring 1 metre by 0.8 metres and two sampling trays.

The Building Control Manager explained that Section 14 of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 permitted the Council to issue a Temporary Street Trading Licence, for a period not exceeding seven days, for special events, such as fairs and festivals, where a full-term Licence would not be required. The Council had discretion under the Act to develop criteria for deciding on applications for Temporary Street Trading Licences, in terms of the nature of occasions and events, the types of trading, the size and number of stalls and their locations and could attach to the Licence any conditions which it deemed appropriate.

He reported that the application had been assessed against the Council’s Temporary Street Trading Policy, following which it had been determined that it had not complied fully, in that it was not connected with a special event, such as the switch on of the Christmas lights, New Year’s Eve or Halloween. However, the Policy did allow for exceptions to be made where the grant of the Temporary Street Trading Licence would add colour, ambience, novelty and/or tradition in particular locations and considered applications in the context of seasonal/festive periods.

He informed the Members that both the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Transport NI had indicated that they had no objection to the proposal at either site and that Belfast City Centre Management, which had been consulted also, had provided no response.

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The Committee agreed to grant to Mixtape Marketing two Temporary Street Trading Licences, permitting it to distribute free samples of a soft drink on 2nd June, between the hours of 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. at the entrance to Central Station in East Bridge Street and in Great Victoria Street, near its junction with Glengall Street.

Application for the Grant of a Stationary Street Trading Licence – Donegall Quay

The Building Control Manager reported that an application had been received from Mr. D. Kelly for the grant of a Stationary Street Trading Licence for a designated site in Donegall Quay. The applicant was seeking to provide a guided walking tour on the history of Belfast, which would commence at the designated site and end at the City Hall, and would be operating from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

He explained that, in proposing to place an 'A' frame board on the site to advertise his tour, rather than using a standard street trading stall, Mr. Kelly would be contravening the Council's Street Trading Stall Design and Trading Policy, which provided guidance on the minimum standard of stall design which should be considered when deciding whether to grant a Street Trading Licence. However, the policy did allow the Committee, in exceptional circumstances, to consider in particular locations novel alternative designs of stall which could enhance the colour, ambience and vibrancy of the area. He added that the Department for Communities, which owned the land in Donegall Quay, had agreed that Mr. Kelly could operate from the site, on condition that he obtain a Stationary Street Trading Licence from the Council.

The Committee agreed to grant to Mr. D. Kelly a Stationary Street Trading Licence for a designated site in Donegall Quay, permitting him to operate a guided walking tour on the history of Belfast from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Competing Applications for the Grant of a Stationary Street Trading Licence – Donegall Street

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th October, 2016, it had considered two separate applications for the grant of a Stationary Street Trading Licence for a designated site in Donegall Street, opposite the Kremlin Nightclub. Having been addressed by each of the applicants, the Committee had agreed that it was minded to grant the Licence to Mr. S. McCallum, permitting him to sell hot food and non-alcoholic beverages from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 9.00 p.m. and 4.00 a.m., on the basis that he had been trading at that location since 2000 and that Ms. L. Swift, the other applicant, had indicated that she would be willing to consider an alternative site.

As a consequence of the decision to grant the Licence to Mr. McCallum and the fact that there was only one designated site available, the Committee had agreed that it was minded to refuse the application which had been submitted by Ms. L. Swift, on the grounds set out in Section 9(1) (a) (iv) of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001,

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namely, that there were sufficient traders trading at that location in the articles, things or services in which she wished to trade and had authorised Council officers to work with her to identify other suitable sites from which she might wish to trade.

The Building Control Manager reported that Ms. Swift had, in accordance with Section 12(2)(b) of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, been advised that she would be permitted to make written representation to the Council within twenty-one days of being notified of the Committee's decision. Whilst no representation had been received from her during that time in relation to that site, she had submitted recently an application for a number of locations which, in her view, would be suitable for designation. Those had been included in a number of proposed sites which the Committee, at its meeting on 19th April, had agreed should proceed to the first stage of the statutory designation process.

The Committee agreed to affirm its decision of 19th October, 2016, to grant the Stationary Street Trading Licence to Mr. S. McCallum, on condition that he forward the required documentation and licence fee, and agreed also to refuse the application which had been submitted by Ms. Swift.

Non-Delegated Matters

Fees for Street Trading Licences

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th June, 2016, it had approved a list of proposed fees for street trading licences, as a basis for public consultation. The Committee was reminded further that, at its meetings on 18th January and 19th April, it had considered the outcome of that consultation and had, on each occasion, agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable officers to provide additional information.

Accordingly, the Building Control Manger submitted for the Committee's consideration the following options for street trading fees, which had been formulated to date:

	2002/ Current Fee	Option 1a	Option 1b	Option 2	Option 3
		(one compliance visit per year)	(two compliance visits per year)	2002/ Current fee + Inflation	Agreed 15/6/2016 for Public Consultation)
STATIONARY LICENCE					
Application Fee - Non refundable	£ 100	£ 430	£ 430	£ 150	£ 617
Renewal Application Fee - Non refundable	£ 100	£ 340	£ 340	£ 150	£ 523
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£ 629	£ 1,065	£ 1,173	£ 940	£ 1,500
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	£ 800			£ 1,195	
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£ 1017	£ 1,085	£ 1,218	£ 1,520	£ 1,570

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Licensed for Saturday	£ 426			£ 635	
Licensed for Sunday	£ 472	£ 956	£ 1,260	£ 705	£ 1,220
Licensed for Weekend*	£ 898	£ 956	£ 1,240	£ 1,340	£ 1,350

MOBILE LICENCE					
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 430	£ 430	£ 180	£ 617
Renewal Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 340	£ 340		£ 523
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£ 429	£ 1,065	£ 1,173	£ 640	£ 1,500
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	£ 628			£ 940	
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£ 882	£ 1,085	£ 1,218	£ 1,315	£ 1,570
Licensed for Saturday	£ 199			£ 295	
Licensed for Sunday	£ 254	£ 956	£ 1,260	£ 380	£ 1,220
Licensed for Weekend*	£ 453	£ 956	£ 1,240	£ 675	£ 1,350

TEMPORARY LICENCE					
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 400	£ 400	£ 180	£ 677
Licence Fee (for up to 7 days)	£ 211	£ 130	£ 130	£ 316	£ 130
Licensed for Monday to Friday, per day	£ 26			£ 39	
Licensed for Saturday	£ 36			£ 54	
Licensed for Sunday or Public holiday	£ 45			£ 67	

Variation of Licence Particulars	£ 50	£ 315	£ 315	£ 75	£ 440
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*Weekend fees do not currently exist, they were proposed as part of the fee structure. Under the old structure if a trader only wanted weekend trade, a Saturday Fee and a Sunday Fee would be combined.

The Building Control Manager addressed a number of issues which had been raised by Members and drew their attention to the fact that, under the current scale of fees, which had remained unchanged since 2002, the Council was recovering only 35% of its costs. However, it was estimated that that figure would rise to 61%, 65%, 53% and 91%, under options 1a, 1b, 2 and 3, respectively.

After a lengthy discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the scale of fees for Street Trading

Licences, as set out within option 2, with all licences to operate for a period of three years.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Boyle,

That the Committee agrees that the current scale of fees for Street Trading Licences be increased by 25%.

As there was no seconder for the amendment it was not put to the meeting.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Magennis,
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell),

That the Committee agrees to defer until its next meeting consideration of the fees for Street Trading Licences to enable officers to formulate a further option, based around a combination of options 1b and 2, with a view to keeping the increases for each licence type at a similar level.

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

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

Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 – Road Closures for Special Events

The Committee was advised that the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010, which had received Royal Assent on 13th August, 2010, sought to provide councils with the power to prohibit or restrict traffic using roads to facilitate special events taking place on them. The Act defined special events as any sporting event, social event, entertainment or film making on a public road.

The Building Control Manager reported that it had been the intention to introduce the legislation in 2013 and that the Committee, at its meeting on 20th March, 2013, had adopted a number of recommendations, primarily around future governance arrangements, processes and policies. However, in May, 2013, the then Minister for Regional Development had chosen to defer the commencement of the Act until a later date.

He reported further that the Council had, in late 2016, received notification from the Department for Infrastructure that it had begun the legislation process to commence the Act on 1st January, 2017. However, that had since been delayed until 4th September. From that date, a person wishing to close a public road for a special event would be required to apply to the Council and, after public notification and consultation with various statutory bodies and with the consent of the Department for Infrastructure, the Council would decide if a road closure order was to be made. That Department, through Transport

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NI, would, however, maintain responsibility for the closure of major roads, such as motorways and the Westlink. He pointed out that, whilst the introduction of the Act was to be welcomed, it would create an additional workload for the Building Control Service, given the significant number of tasks which would be required to be completed.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that a report outlining its future role in determining applications for road closures for special events, together with options for the charging of fees, would be submitted to a future meeting.

Last Meeting

Councillor Armitage referred to the fact that this had been his last meeting in the role of Chairperson, as his replacement was due to be appointed in June, and thanked the Members and officers for their support over the previous year.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 16th May, 2017

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Johnston (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Bunting,
Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson, Jones,
Lyons, Magee and McAteer.
- In attendance: Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and
Policy Manager;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Carson, Dorrian and Mullan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 11th April and 13th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Magee declared an interest regarding item (s) LA04/2016/0006/F change of use to ground floor, from shop to hot food takeaway, at 45 Manor Street, in that he knew the owner of the property.

Councillor McAteer declared an interest regarding item (u) LA04/2016/0051/F-residential building consisting of six apartments at 82 Eglantine Avenue, in that she had facilitated a meeting with the applicant about the proposal.

Matters Referred Back from Council

Notice of Motion – Housing Provision in Belfast

(Councillor Collins attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was reminded that the Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, had referred the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by

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Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor McCabe, to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

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

Councillor Collins highlighted that a large number of people were in housing stress in Belfast, particularly in the North and West of the city, with many more suffering than what official waiting list figures showed. He outlined that there were numerous suitable sites available in which social housing could be built and that action needed to be taken to address the increasing problem.

The Committee received representation from Mr. S. Brady, Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR). He explained that PPR worked to build bridges between duty bearers and those whose rights were being denied, and, in this case, was seeking to address the housing crisis in Belfast. He outlined that there was a clear need for additional social housing in North Belfast and that land was available in the areas with the highest demand. He requested that elected representatives worked together to alleviate the housing crisis.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Brady for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager outlined to the Committee that there were a number of competing demands for a finite resource of development land within the city. He reminded the Members that the creation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) was ongoing and that a review of existing designations would be carried out as part of that process. He explained that current legislation did not permit the Council to carry out a comprehensive review of any existing designations in advance of the completion of the LDP and that individual applications would continue to be assessed on their own merits by the Planning Committee.

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After discussion, during which a number of Members acknowledged the difficulties which a large number of people were facing in relation to securing housing, the Committee noted the motion.

Committee Site Visit

Pursuant to its decision of 13th April, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 4th May in respect of planning application 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.

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.

During discussion, the Director of Planning and Place agreed to submit regular reports which would seek to summarise any emerging trends arising from Planning Appeals.

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 4th April and 5th May.

Departmental Performance Update

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

Applications:

- 197 applications validated in April 2017.
- This is down 8% compared to April 2016 (241).

Decisions:

- 169 decisions issued in April 2017.
- 94% approval rate
- 94% decisions issued under delegated authority
- 198 decisions issued in April 2016

No. of applications in system by length of time:

- 1023 live apps in system at end of March 2017
- 60% of applications in system less than 6 months

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- Outstanding legacy applications is 24. (from 780 at transfer in April 2015).

Performance against statutory Targets (unvalidated management information up to 31 March 2017)

- The statutory target for processing major development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date is within an average of 30 weeks. In Quarter 4 (1 Jan – 30 April 2017) the average processing time to decide major applications in BCC was 29.8 weeks. This, however, includes legacy applications and those Major applications which have been delayed whilst a Section 76 agreement in put in place.
- Excluding those applications requiring a Section 76 agreement the average processing time for processing a major application between 1 January and 31 March was 22 weeks.
- The statutory target for processing local development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date is an average of 15 weeks. In Quarter 4, the average processing time to decide local applications in BCC was 18.2 weeks.
- The statutory target is that 70% of all enforcement cases are progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. In quarter 4, 68.8% of enforcement cases were concluded within 39 weeks.

The Committee noted the update provided.

Proposed Abandonment

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposed abandonment of land at The Manor, Blacks Road, Belfast.

Response to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Consultation - Preferred Options Paper

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To present for consideration and comment the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper (POP). A copy of the POP Summary Paper is available on the Council’s website.

The submissions closing date is 25th May 2017. The proposed draft response from Belfast City Council is available on the Council's website.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee notes the public consultation of LCCC's POP. It is further recommended that the Committee considers the draft written response to the POP and, if appropriate, approve it for submission to LCCC.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) recently published its POP and has written to the City Council seeking our views. The LCCC POP sets out a vision and a number of strategic objectives for the new LDP. It also sets out the preferred options for addressing key issues identified. The main issues of particular interest and relevance to Belfast are summarised below.

3.2 The Spatial Growth Strategy seeks to focus growth in accordance with a settlement hierarchy, with Lisburn City, Castlereagh and Dundonald urban areas at the top, followed by the towns of Hillsborough, Moira and Carryduff. Proposed housing growth allocations are based on this hierarchy and are primarily focussed on Lisburn City. LCCC's preferred option is for 13,300 new dwellings (738 per annum) up to 2030, with an additional 10% allowance for market flexibility. This hierarchical approach to growth is considered to be appropriate. However, the POP acknowledges that there is insufficient land zoned or committed for housing, both within the existing urban footprint and within existing designated settlement limits to meet all the planned housing growth during the period of the new LDP. To help address this issue, LCCC proposes to direct significant new housing to a portion of the West Lisburn/Blaris Major Employment Location site. Whilst this may be an acceptable approach, it is considered important that cross-boundary discussion takes place with LCCC and other councils in the Greater Belfast sub-regional area to ensure that individual housing allocations are agreed and implemented consistently to support the Regional Development Strategy.

3.3 In terms of retailing, LCCC's preferred option for Sprucefield is to reinforce it as a regional shopping centre. This takes account of the decision to remove the 'bulky goods only'

restriction for additional retail development at the existing centre. As Elected Members will be aware, this is the subject of a separate legal challenge by Belfast City Council and it is not intended to make any detailed comment on this matter in response to the LCCC POP at this time. Nevertheless, it is considered appropriate to comment that any future development at Sprucefield is in accordance with national policy that is based on the 'town centre first approach', as expressed in the Regional Development Strategy and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

3.4 The POP proposes to extend the area designated as the Forestside District Centre. The proposed extension will include the retail park, DIY unit and adjoining lands, all on the opposite side of the main A24 road from the existing shopping mall. These lands are currently not included in the District Centre boundary. This represents a significant expansion of the District Centre, which is immediately adjoining the local government district boundary with Belfast City and has a catchment area that extends well into Belfast City. The additional area more than doubles the existing designated centre. This could facilitate the full range of retailing activities at this location. The potential impact on existing retail centres in Belfast City, including Connswater and the City Centre, is of concern. It is considered that the proposed expansion of the Forestside District Centre is inconsistent with the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) aim to support and sustain 'town centres' (including city centres) with a town centre first approach for retail and other town centre uses. The significant expansion of retailing activities, particularly for comparison (high street type) retailing, has the potential to adversely impact on the vitality and viability of retailing the Belfast City Council Area, including the city centre and Connswater.

3.5 There are a number of other cross-boundary issues that need co-operation between both councils. These include sustainable travel, waste management and environmental protection issues. In the latter regard, it is acknowledged that the Lagan Valley Regional Park and the Belfast Hills are cross-boundary assets that form part of the wider green and blue network. In addition, provision for cemeteries and crematoria is important and the City Council is continuing to explore options for addressing the medium and long term requirements. Continued joint discussion is required throughout all stages of the LDP process to ensure a joined-up and mutually beneficial approach.

3.6 The attached draft response highlights areas of support or concern and issues of mutual interest. The LCCC POP generally represents a positive and proactive approach to future growth and sustainable development. With the exception of the above concerns in relation to retailing at Forestside, there does not appear to be any conflict with our own growth and development aspirations. It forms a basis for continued partnership working with LCCC and we should welcome the POP and the opportunity to comment on it.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with this report

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Miscellaneous Items

Listed Buildings

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) seeking the Council's views in respect of proposals which had been formulated for the listing of a number of buildings in Belfast.

The Committee was reminded that Article 80 (3) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 required the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and supported the proposed listings of the following buildings by the Department for Communities:

- 22 Ashley Avenue, Belfast, BT9 7BT;
- 24 Ashley Avenue, Belfast, BT9 7BT;
- 26 Ashley Avenue, Belfast, BT9 7BT;
- Chapel of Unity, Methodist College, Belfast, BT9 6BQ; and
- All Souls Church Hall (AKA Rosemary Hall), Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6AZ

Notification of Delisting of Building of Special Architectural or Historical Interest

The Committee agreed that the following two graving docks would be scheduled rather than listed, as a more appropriate form of protection:

- Graving Dock No. 1, Clarendon Quay, Belfast, BT1 3AL; and

- Graving Dock No. 2, Clarendon Quay, Belfast, BT1 3AL.

Protocol for Planning Appeals Commission Hearings

The Committee noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Update on Preferred Options Paper Consultation

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update Committee on the POP engagement activity and the number of responses received.
- To request a Member’s workshop on Thursday 18 May 2017 to outline the consultation carried out, provide initial feedback on the issues raised and set out the process for the formal reporting of the results.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- Note the information set out in the report in relation to the responses received and the next stages in the LDP process.
- Agree to the Members workshop on Thursday 18 May 2017.
- Note the proposal for the formal POP consultation report be brought to Committee in June.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Preferred Options Paper (POP)

The Preferred Options Paper is a detailed document with 48 different Preferred Options grouped under the four Strategic Aims and was accompanied by a suite of supporting documents, comprising:

- POP Summary or ‘easy read’ public document (made available in large print and Braille)
- Youth POP
- Information leaflet and pop-ups
- 18 Topic Papers underpinning the preferred options

- Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- Non-Technical Summary for the Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- Countryside Assessment
- Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Screening
- Commissioned reports on housing and population growth and economic growth

3.2 Hard copies of the Preferred Options Paper and the POP Summary were printed and used throughout the consultation period. All the additional supporting documents were available online and supplementary publicity materials such as the information leaflet and pop-ups (outlining the four POP themes) were utilised for the consultation events and ongoing engagement activity. Tailored POP presentations were developed and delivered to audiences.

POP engagement

3.3 The Statement of Community Involvement was published in June 2016 and sets out the minimum level of engagement required during the LDP. Given the overlap of the Belfast Agenda and POP consultation periods it was recognised that consistent and clear messages needed to be provided for stakeholders and effort was made to carry out joint consultation events. Whilst the POP had separate contact details for the consultation, the clarity of messages and signposting was in line with wider council activity.

3.4 In total there were 82 consultation events for the POP consultation which consisted of:

- 4 area events (with the Belfast Agenda and Local Investment Fund)
- 52 stakeholder consultations (including meetings with adjacent councils)
- 18 public facing engagement events
- 1 drop in session for Section 75 groups
- 7 internal events
- Regular meetings with the LDP Steering Group and statutory consultees

3.5 In addition to the four area based events the team engaged with communities of interest (Youth Forum, Festival Forum, Senior's Forum); organisations covering specific areas of the city (Belfast Area Partnerships, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, Belfast Hills Partnership, Resident Groups);

business organisations (BCCM, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Harbour Commissioners); professional bodies (RICS, Royal Society of Ulster Architects); and the adjacent councils. There were also 18 public engagement events in which staff set up pop up information booths in busy public areas such as St George's market, Castlecourt, Europa Station, Ulster Museum and the student unions in UU, BMC and QUB.

- 3.6 The LDP Unit worked closely with the Equality Unit within council to develop an engagement programme with Section 75 groups and held a drop-in session, spoke at the S75 Insight Project and at the S75 Consultative Forum and held an event for disability groups in Grosvenor Hall. The POP summary was also produced in large print format and Braille.
- 3.7 The programme of events was effective in both informing the public and facilitating general awareness of the broader plan process whilst encouraging responses and debate. Lessons learned from the POP consultation will inform the ongoing work to plan for the engagement as part of the next stage in the Plan development.

Formal responses to the Preferred Options Paper

- 3.8 Formal responses to the POP were received via email, Citizen Space and hard copy. In total:
- 44 responses were received via Citizen Space
 - 100 responses were received via email
 - 4 hardcopy responses were received
- 3.9 Working with the Youth Forum the Youth POP summary was distributed to 13 schools. This generated an additional:
- 47 Citizen Space responses
 - 58 hardcopy responses

POP communications

- 3.10 A range of communications tools were used throughout the POP consultation period with an aim to reach as many audiences as possible and included:
- Social media: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
 - Online advertising: Facebook - boosted post, Google AdWords and display advertising.
 - Printed press advertising - Belfast Gazette, Irish News, Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph and Belfast Media Group

(North Belfast News, Andersonstown News, South Belfast News).

- Belfast City Council website
- Press releases: Launch and close of consultation
- Media coverage (Radio and TV)

3.11 The final data is still being collated but the initial communication analytics reveal the following:

- The Facebook reach for the period running up to the close of the consultation reached 6,500 people.
- There were 18,230 Twitter impressions (the number of times a tweet has been delivered to the Twitter stream) for the period running up to the close of the consultation with an average engagement rate of 1.65% (above 1% is considered a good rate of engagement).
- Between 26 January - 20 April 2017 the POP webpage had 2,433 unique page views, with an average time of 08:26 minutes spent on the page.

Analysis of POP data

3.12 Analysis of the information received from the POP consultation is underway and it is proposed to present the formal consultation report to the June Planning Committee. In order to provide members with the opportunity to explore some of the issues raised in the consultations, it is proposed that a Member's workshop is arranged for Thursday 18 May 2017. The workshop will provide initial feedback on the issues raised, outline the process for the formal reporting of the consultation finding and highlight the main issues raised by respondents.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The resource implications will continue to be kept under review in relation to the five-year plan programme.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications."

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Development Management Operating Principles

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Planning Committee on on-going improvements to the Development Management (planning applications) part of the Planning Service. Appended to this report are a series of Operating Principles that have been informed by feedback from the development industry at stakeholder workshops in 2016, feedback from staff and best practice from around the UK. The Planning Service will be working to these Operating Principles to support an enhanced service to customers.

1.2 The Operating Principles will inform the development of Customer Guidance which will set out to customers how the Development Management service operates.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the 10 Operating Principles and ‘Purpose’ of the Development Management (planning applications) service which are available on the Council’s website. These will underpin Customer Guidance on how the Planning Service operates.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Members will recall that an Improvement Plan has been prepared for the Development Management (planning applications) part of the Planning Service. An updated copy of the Improvement Plan is available on the Council’s website. The purpose of the Improvement Plan is to identify areas of the service that need enhancing to improve the customer experience.

3.2 Two key actions in the Improvement Plan are to review internal processes in line with best practice and to finalise and publish service standards. The Council does not currently publish how it deals with planning applications and what customers can expect. This needs to be rectified and Customer Guidance is required to set out service standards and how the planning process operates.

3.3 A series of engagement events were held with the development industry in Spring 2016. Alongside feedback from staff and good practice from the UK, this has informed the creation of 10 'Operating Principles', which underpin a good planning service. These can be found on the Council's website.

3.4 The Operating Principles represent good practice in how a Development Management service should be provided. The Operating Principles will inform the development of Customer Guidance that clearly sets out to customers how the planning service operates, what the service standards are and what they can expect from the service.

3.5 Key issues

The Improvement Plan is aimed in part at improving application performance. Unofficial figures for 2016/17 show an average processing time of 62.1 weeks for Major applications (target of 30 weeks) and 15.4 weeks for Local applications (target of 15 weeks). Members should note that these performance returns include Legacy applications and permissions subject to a Section 76 planning agreement. These have the effect of increasing average processing times without the ability to agree an extension of the determination period, unlike in England and Wales. Moreover, it should be noted that recent performance has been strong. During 2016/17 Q4, the average processing time for Major applications was 29.8 weeks (within target). Excluding those applications that required a Section 76 planning agreement, the average processing time was 22 weeks.

3.6 The statutory targets are set by the Department for Infrastructure (DFI). A new performance framework is expected from the Department which will create a more level playing field with UK local planning authorities and will further assist the achievement of targets. The Department is due to consult councils on the new performance framework and the consultation will be reported to the Committee in the coming months.

3.7 The Operating Principles will support the following outcomes:

- A customer focused and business approach to delivery of the service;
- Timely and quality decisions by frontloading the application process;
- Good communication with customers;

- Reducing the amount of conflict between what the customer wants and the type of service that is provided;
 - Focused decision-making
- 3.8 The Committee is asked to note the Operating Principles, as well as the suggested 'Purpose' of the Development Management service, available on the Council's website. The Operating Principles will then underpin Customer Guidance on how the Planning Service operates and what customers can expect from the service.
- 3.9 It is essential that the Planning Service is appropriately structured, and has sufficient resource at the right level, if the Operating Principles are to be effectively implemented. This is under review. Further improvements need to be made including lean-management of detailed processes and introduction of fit for purpose replacement back-office computer software, including the ability for customers to submit planning applications online. Evolution of the Planning Service is a continuous process and further actions will be implemented as part of the on-going improvement programme. Members will receive further updates on the implementation of the Improvement Plan at key milestones.
- 3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- Implementation of the Operating Principles will ensure that the Planning Service is efficient in its handling of planning applications, creating capacity to provide a better planning service.
- 3.11 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**
- None identified."

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Major Planning Permissions

The Development Engagement Manager reminded the Committee that the transfer of many planning powers to Local Government had taken place following the Review of Public Administration in April 2015. He advised the Committee that this transfer had included giving Councils the responsibility for preparing a Local Development Plan for each Council area, determining most planning applications and enforcing breaches of planning control.

The officer detailed that over the two year period since the transfer, Belfast City Council had determined approximately 3,300 applications, of which approximately 93%

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had been approved. The Council's Planning Committee had determined close to 430 planning applications, which was approximately 13% of all applications, with a delegation rate of 87%.

The Committee was then provided with an overview of the number of planning permissions granted specifically for major developments, all of which having been determined by the Planning Committee as required by statute. It was noted that approximately 80 applications had been received and that the approval rate for 2016/17 had been 97%. The officer stated that this demonstrated the Planning Service's strong commitment to engaging with its customers, working through issues and finding solutions to enable significant development projects to progress.

The Committee noted that these permissions included many major city centre schemes, as follows:

- 17 permissions for hotels (or circa 1,500 beds);
- 21 permission for offices (circa 150,000 sq. m. floor space); and
- 12 permissions for purpose built student accommodation (circa 5,800 beds).

The officer reported that the total construction value of these development was estimated at approximately £400 million, broken down as follows:

- Hotels - £70 million;
- Offices - £165 million;
- Purpose Built Student Accommodation - £175 million.

A Member welcomed the work of the Planning Service and the contribution that the Service was making to development and investment within the city centre, he stated that he would also welcome an update report in respect of major developments that had taken place throughout the other areas of the City.

The Committee noted the update report and that a further report on development across the whole of the City would be submitted to a future meeting.

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)**

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that two applications, namely (i) LA04/2015/0598/O – Residential development comprising 60 apartments at former Monarch Laundry Site, 451-455 and (w) LA04/2016/1184/F 5 apartments at 63 Houston Park had both been withdrawn from the planning process and as a result had been withdrawn from the agenda.

LA04/2016/0879/F 5 dwellings at 440-446 Ravenhill Road

The case officer outlined the contents of the report and informed the Committee that the application had been withdrawn from the agenda of the meeting of 11th April for the consideration of a late objection which had been received. He outlined to the Committee that, in light of that objection and an additional representation which had been received in the interim, all representations had now been fully considered in the assessment within the amended report. He outlined that the statutory consultees had been contacted once again and had expressed no objections to the proposed development at the site.

The case officer outlined that the application sought planning approval for the demolition of existing semi-detached dwellings and the construction of 5 no. dwellings comprising of 3 no. detached and 2 no. semi-detached houses with associated car parking and landscaping.

The Committee was advised that the proposal had been assessed against the SPPS, Planning Policy Statements (PPS) 3, 7 and the Addendum to PPS 7, and supplementary guidance set out in Creating Places, DCAN 8 and Parking Standards.

He explained that, after assessment, the proposal was considered acceptable and had been recommended for approval.

The Committee received representations from Mrs. Van den Berg and Mr. Lambkin. They outlined a range of objections to the proposal, including:

- whether a site visit had been carried out;
- the case report having omitted objections relating to the loss and invasion of privacy of the private amenity space;
- that a 25ft open aspect would be left as a result of the demolition of the garage;
- that the proposed roundabout would encourage traffic onto privately owned land;
- that the areas in common should be clearly demarcated;
- evidence of previously blocked sewers from statutory agencies;
- the previous presence of Japanese Knotweed on the site of no. 446 and concerns that construction work would disturb the ground; and

- issues regarding the applicant not having submitted the correct certificate and not having full land ownership.

The objectors requested that, if approval was granted, conditions be imposed on the applicant to ensure replacement screening be provided and that the choice of surface abutting the boundary along the passage in common be agreed between the applicant and the neighbouring property owner.

The Chairperson thanked the residents for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

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In response, the case officer clarified a number of the issues which had been raised. He explained that, although it was not a requirement from officers, the developer had stated that he was prepared to use the vacant plot as the access point for construction traffic, and that he would discuss this with the agent before the decision was issued. He confirmed to the Members that the correct certificate had now been produced by the applicant and that due process had been followed.

The Committee approved the application, in line with the recommendation outlined in the case officer's report, and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

**LA04/2016/2027/F 17.5m telecommunications mast including
3 equipment cabinets on footpath opposite No. 590 Shore Road**

(Alderman McGimpsey had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The case officer apprised the Committee of the application for the erection of a 17.5m high telecommunications mast and associated works including 3 No equipment cabinets. He reported that the application site was located on the footpath opposite No 590 Shore Road and adjacent to Loughside Park. Loughside playing fields were situated to the rear of the proposal. The site was designated in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 with land zoned as existing Open Space.

The case officer reported that although the site had been identified as an area of existing open space it was located on a footpath adjoining the Shore Road which was an arterial route. The location of the mast and cabinets would be against a backdrop of trees along the Shore Road which would minimise any visual impact and therefore the proposal was not considered to be obtrusive. In addition, the case officer advised that an International Commission for Non Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Declaration had been received which demonstrated that the proposal met the ICNIRP guidelines.

The Committee was advised that 246 objections had been received, which included a letter of objection from Mr. N. Dodds, MP and a late written submission from Alderman. G. Spence. The case officer advised that the application had been assessed against relevant planning policy, particularly PPS10 telecommunications. All objections had been considered within the context of the planning policy and all consultees had raised no objections and therefore the proposal was deemed to comply with the development plan regional planning policy.

The Committee received representations from Mr. Samuel, objector, and Mr. L. Ross, agent.

Mr. Samuel advised the Committee that he was representing Loughside Concerned Residents who were opposed to the erection of this mast. He outlined that residents of this group felt that their objections in relation to the impact of the health and wellbeing of local people had been dismissed. He highlighted the number of objections which had been received and also stated that, in his opinion, the consultation process had been very disjointed. He stated that the location of this proposal was near to a play

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park, which appeared to also have been ignored within the context of the report, and he highlighted that one of the objections received had been from Playboard NI. The representative proceeded to outline in detail the health and safety concerns of the local community and the specific reasons as to why this proposal should not be permitted to proceed.

Mr. Ross, explained that this application was a joint application between Telefonica (O2) and Vodafone and formed part of a regional rollout of 4G mobile services. He outlined that the main Political Parties, businesses and the general public were all calling for better mobile phone coverage. In addition to this, the Government recognised that high quality communications infrastructure was essential for economic growth and also identified a need for a more efficient telecommunications infrastructure that would give Northern Ireland a competitive advantage. He advised the Committee that this site had been one of 8 possible options considered but each of the others had been ruled out at various stages. He also stated that mast sharing had been explored but there had been no existing masts in the immediate vicinity and he stressed the need for this mast which he suggested would help play a vital role in improving telecommunications coverage for the area.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**Z/2014/1083/F 4 semi detached houses, 34 apartments,
basement car park, access road at 733 - 735 Antrim Road**

The Committee was advised that this application sought full planning permission for 4 semi-detached dwellings and 34 apartments. The case officer advised that the principle of development had already been established under Z/2008/1469/F and in the most part it replicated the current application.

The Committee was advised that NI Water, Transport NI, Environmental Health and Rivers Agency had no objections to the proposal. She explained that the area was predominantly residential and, while the proposal would have an impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties, that separation distances and proposed landscaping would mitigate any impact. The Members were advised that there would be basement car parking, with 27 spaces in each block of apartments.

The case officer highlighted to the Committee that the resident of no. 737 had submitted late correspondence raising issues about the shared boundary and a loss of vegetation and that this was included in the late items pack. She confirmed that, if the application was to be approved, a condition would be placed on the applicant to prohibit any loss of vegetation on that boundary.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2016/2489/F retail warehouse unit with internal mezzanine floor at Shane Retail Park

The case officer explained to the Committee that planning permission was being sought for the erection of a retail warehouse building for the sale of bulky goods, with an internal mezzanine floor and associated general site works.

She outlined that the site was within the designated development limits for the city within the Area Plan (BMAP 2015) and was unzoned white land located within the Boucher Road area of the city.

The Committee was advised that a review of available sites had indicated that sequentially preferable locations which could accommodate the proposal were available within the primary retail core, city centre and district centres and that the proposal therefore failed the sequential test as set out in the SPPS. However, she outlined that the proposal would not significantly impact on Belfast City Centre or other protected centres.

She also outlined that, in relation to the history of the site, two retail units had been approved on the site in 2009 and, whilst the permission had expired in 2014, it was considered material. The case officer also explained that the restriction to 'bulky goods' sales was compatible with the other units in the Retail Park.

The Members were advised that no representations had been received regarding the proposal and no objections had been received from the relevant consultees.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2017/0562/F 12 Storey Grade A office Demolition of existing cinema Building and erection of a 12 storey Grade A office building, basement parking and the refurbishment of Bankmore Square open space and wider public realm improvements at 14 Dublin Road and Bankmore Square

The Committee was advised that the application sought full permission for a 12 storey office development with ground floor retail, basement parking and the refurbishment of Bankmore Square.

The case officer detailed that the site was located within Belfast City Centre as designated in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and that it was also within the Shaftesbury Square Character Area (CC013) and along a major road proposal. She continued that the site location adjacent to Bankmore Square, whilst not typical in the area, was ameliorated and its impact somewhat reduced by the particular setting of the large open space area of Bankmore Square. The case officer highlighted that the applicant had taken part in a very productive Pre Application Discussion (PAD) process and that the applicant had also agreed to enter into a Section 76 legal agreement in

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respect of developer contributions to provide an update to the public open space of Bankmore Square and to provide public realm improvements around the proposed building.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. C. Shanks, agent. Mr. Shanks advised that the proposal sought demolition of the existing cinema building and the erection of a 12 storey Grade A office building comprising 11 floors of offices above a ground floor foyer, along with retail units, basement parking and other ancillary works. He asked the Committee to note that this was a £65 million capital investment for the City which would generate rates revenue and taxes. Mr. Clyde outlined a range of issues in support of the application and concluded that the build would also create work for the local construction industry.

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.

(Meeting adjourned for 10 minutes at this point)

**LA04/2016/1830/F 21 class primary school and nursery unit
at Holy Evangelist Primary School, Glasvey Drive**

The Committee was advised that this application sought full planning permission for the erection of a new 21 class primary school and nursery unit to replace the existing primary school, associated car parking, landscaping, site works and new access arrangements from Glasvey Drive.

The case officer explained that the proposed site was located within an existing primary school complex, with the replacement building mostly two storeys in height, with a separate detached single storey nursery building.

The Committee was advised that the site was located within the development limits of Belfast in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and was not subject to any zoning. He outlined that the re-configuration of buildings and open spaces/car parking provision would result in a loss of some open space, contrary to PPS 8, but that given the poor condition of the current school it was considered that the community benefit of improved school facilities outweighed the retention of this space.

The Members noted that no objections had been received from any statutory consultees or the public.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

**LA04/2016/2276/F conversion to ground floor hot food bar
and 4 first/second floor apartments at 137 Albertbridge Road**

The case officer advised the Committee that the application sought full planning permission for conversion and change of use from a vacant bookmakers (sui generis) premises to a ground floor hot food bar (sui generis) with first/second floor apartments (4 units) above.

The Committee was advised that the conversion would regenerate a vacant building on an arterial route. He outlined that space standards for accommodation did not apply as the site was on an arterial route and was also a conversion. He pointed out that no representations had been received and that Environmental Health had no objections, subject to appropriate noise and odour proofing being provided.

In response to a Member's query regarding apartments above hot food bars, the case officer explained that two previous applications which had been refused had been overturned on appeal. The Director of Planning and Place agreed to submit regular reports to the Committee outlining any trends which had arisen from Planning Appeals decisions.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2016/0051/F residential building consisting of six
apartments at 82 Eglantine Avenue**

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

The case officer outlined that the application was for alterations to the internal layout of 82 Eglantine Avenue, facilitating a new residential building consisting of 6 one bedroom apartments. She provided an overview of the site history and explained to the Members that a number of properties in the surrounding area had been granted extensions and alterations, including an extended rear return, and that demolition consents had been granted for the rear portions of buildings and the retention of front facades.

She explained that the application had been assessed against the SPPS, Planning Policy Statement 3, 6, 7, Addendum to 7, DCAN 8 and 15, Malone Design Guide, Creating Places and Supplementary Guidance – Parking Standards.

She highlighted to the Committee that, under PPS 7 Policy QD1, proposed developments should respect the character of the site by way of an acceptable layout and should present an attractive outlook rather than unsightly views of back land areas. She highlighted to the Committee that apartment 2 within the application would have a rear facing outlook to the communal amenity space and bin/storage area, with the lower half of the windows in the apartment proposed to be obscured to prevent overlooking by other residents while using the communal areas. The Members were advised that this was contrary to policy QD1.

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The Members were advised that there had been fifteen objections, four of which had been received after the amended plans had been submitted.

The case officer outlined that, after assessment, the application had been deemed unacceptable and was recommended for refusal.

The Committee received representation from Mr. D. Monaghan, planning consultant. In relation to the outlook from the windows in apartment 2, he advised that a new, 800ft² garden would be created to the rear of the property, exceeding the size required under the relevant design guidance, Creating Places. He explained that the view from the kitchen and living area from the apartment would look onto the garden. In relation to privacy, he advised that the use of low-glare, reflective glazing on windows in apartment 2 would enable the residents to see out while preventing those in the communal areas from being able to see in.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Monaghan for his representation and he retired from the meeting.

During discussion, the case officer explained that reflective glazing, as outlined, would not be sufficient as the Policy document stated that apartments should have a lively outlook and apartment 2 was wholly to the rear, with only a view of the garden and bin area.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Garrett, and
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the application in order to undertake a site visit to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand and that additional information on reflective glazing be submitted to the next meeting.

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

LA04/2016/0688/F Conversion of existing Scottish Mutual Building to Boutique Hotel

(Councillor Lyons returned to the Committee table at this point)

The Committee was advised that this proposal sought permission for conversion of the existing Scottish Mutual Building to a Boutique Hotel comprising of public bars, restaurants, functions spaces and hotel bedrooms to include internal and external alterations and additions, including cone roofs and corner turrets, and enclosed external seating areas on Bedford Street.

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The case officer outlined that this was a revision to a previously approved scheme and he detailed that these revisions included revised ground and first floor layouts and a formal external seating area along Bedford Street.

The Committee noted that, given the site context and the previous approval which remained extant, the proposed hotel and uses were considered acceptable.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2016/2466/F 3 storey rear office extension at Newsletter Building 55-59 Donegall Street

The Committee considered an application seeking full planning permission for a 3 storey rear extension to the Newsletter Building on Donegall Street.

The case officer advised that the site of the proposal was located within Belfast City Centre as designated in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan. It was also within the Cathedral Quarter Conservation Area and the Scotch and Cathedral Quarters Character Area. The Committee noted that the principle of the office extension and loss of car parking spaces were acceptable given the city centre location.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

Z/2014/1277/F residential development at 581 Shore Road

The Committee was advised that this application sought full planning permission for a residential development comprising of 31 dwellings (1 no detached, 12 no semi-detached and 18 no townhouses).

The case officer advised that the site was located within the development limits as designated within the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and that the principle of residential accommodation on the site was considered acceptable. The proposal was located within an established residential area and was compliant with Policy QD 1 of PPS 7 in that it would create a sustainable and quality residential environment. It was reported that the development respected the surrounding context, there was adequate amenity space provided and the form, materials and design were all in keeping with the area. The Committee noted that the proposal would not have a detrimental impact on the amenity of existing and proposed residents.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2017/0231/F Variation of conditions, Lidl, Connswater Shopping Centre

The case officer outlined the contents of the report and informed the Committee that the application sought planning permission for the variation of condition 2 (gross floorspace restriction) and condition 3 (net retail floorspace restriction) of planning permission LA04/2015/0160/F, variation of condition to permit sales of convenience goods and all types of comparison goods. The application sought to remove reference to the approved floor plan and to allow for the reconfiguration of the ground floor layout and an increase to the overall gross floorspace at Units 2, 3 and 4 at Connswater Retail Park.

The Committee was advised that the proposal would not result in any intensification in use over and above that previously deemed acceptable under application LA04/2015/0160/F, and it was therefore considered that this would not result in any detriment to the amenity of neighbouring properties in accordance with the SPPS.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2015/0685/F 30 student apartments at 89-101 Royal Avenue

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

The Committee was advised that full planning permission was sought for a change of use from office to student apartments on the upper floors (4 in total) with a proposed roof top extension to provide student accommodation with a roof terrace. They were asked to note that alterations would also include restoration to the façade, replacement of windows and refurbishment of the entrances to the building. A total of 30 student apartments was being proposed.

The case officer reported that Sinclair House was a Grade B+ Listed Building occupying a prominent site at the north end of Royal Avenue and that an application for listed building consent had also been submitted alongside this full application.

The Committee was advised that it was considered that the proposed alterations, extension and refurbishment would enhance the appearance of the existing building, which in turn would make a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area at this location and ensure the restoration of this Grade B+ listed building.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2015/1160/F 18 apartments at 165-169 Hollywood Road

The case officer advised the Committee that the application sought full planning permission for the demolition of the Stormont Inn and the construction of 18 apartments.

The Committee noted that the proposal had been assessed against the relevant planning policy and having regard to the policy context and Development Plan the proposal was considered to be acceptable.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2016/0868/F additional retail on the first floor with storage on the second floor at 52-54 Boucher Crescent.

The Committee considered an application seeking full planning permission for the proposed alteration and extension to the rear of the existing Creations premises, to provide additional retail on the first floor with storage on the second floor. Ground floor parking would be retained but rearranged around the existing structure.

The case officer advised that the application had been assessed against the relevant planning policies including BMAP, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), PPS 3: Access, Movement and Parking, PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, and associated supplementary guidance. He highlighted that, in accordance with the requirements of the SPPS, a Retail Impact Assessment had been submitted and, on the basis of the information provided, it was considered that the proposal complied with the SPPS.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2016/1347/F 7 apartments at 16-18 Glen Road

The Committee was informed that the application sought permission for full planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and erection of 7 Apartments in a single two storey block with associated car parking and landscaping. This was an amended scheme to that which had originally been proposed, which had been for 8 apartments comprising of 2 blocks of 4 apartments.

The case officer highlighted that the site was located within the development limits of Belfast in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and was identified as whiteland.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to consider any late representations and to finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2016/2275/F playground and fence on open space adjacent to Glenbryn Park

The Committee considered an application to install a playground for public use and erect a 1.2m high fence around the boundary of the open space with pedestrian access.

The Committee was advised that this was a Belfast City Council application. The case officer informed the Committee that the site was currently zoned for housing in BMAP and that this proposal would not compromise the delivery of housing in the area. He reported that the proposal would provide a significant environmental enhancement in the area and provide a valuable community facility where there was a current under provision.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the wording of the planning conditions.

LA04/2017/0362/F change of use from retail to hot food bar at 368 Upper Newtownards Road

(Councillor Magee who had declared an interest in the next application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The Committee considered an application for the change of use from retail premises to a hot food bar with elevation alterations and rear extraction flue.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0006/F change of use to ground floor from shop to hot food takeaway at 45 Manor Street

The Committee considered an application for the change of use of the ground floor shop to a hot food takeaway.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0849/F bookmakers and six apartments at 132-134 Ormeau Road

(Councillor Magee returned to the Committee table at this point)

The Committee considered an application for the part demolition of the rear return and alteration and extension to the existing building, creating a bookmakers at ground floor and six apartments at first and second floor.

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The case officer outlined that the proposal was essentially the creation of two additional residential units and a reconfigured bookmaker's office.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0950/F 7 dwellings at 172 - 174 Finaghy Road South

The Committee was informed that the application sought permission for a residential development comprising 7 detached dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping.

The Committee granted approval, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

Chairperson

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