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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 3rd July, 2017 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council Meetings of 1st and 6th June, 2017 (Pages 1 - 14)
5. Request to Address the Council - Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse
6. Official Announcements
7. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd June, 2017 (Pages 15 - 70)
 - a) Confirmation of Amendment to Standing Orders

To confirm the amendments to Standing Orders, as agreed by the Council on 1st June, in ratifying the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May, subject to the omission of the amendment to Standing Order 47, which was rescinded by that Committee at its meeting on 23rd June.
8. Minutes of People and Communities Committee of 13th June, 2017 (Pages 71 - 116)
9. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 14th June, 2017 (Pages 117 - 170)
10. Minutes of Licensing Committee of 21st June, 2017 (Pages 171 - 184)
11. Minutes of Planning Committee of 20th June, 2017 (Pages 185 - 202)
12. Minutes of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited Shareholders' Committee of 19th June, 2017 (Pages 203 - 210)

13. Notices of Motion

a) Dog-Friendly Badging Scheme

Proposed by Councillor McDonough-Brown,
Seconded by Councillor McVeigh,

"This Council agrees to develop and introduce an opt-in badging scheme which indicates which premises in Belfast are dog-friendly, so that customers can know where dogs are welcome in the City."

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

b) Donations to Political Parties

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Milne,

"This Council notes the motions passed in March, 2016 and January, 2017, recognising the importance which the citizens of Belfast place on being able to trust their elected representatives to work for the common good; further recognises the corrupting influence which money can have on political decision-making; considers it unacceptable that donations to political parties continue to remain secret in Northern Ireland; reiterates its calls on the Secretary of State to immediately lift the exemption to reveal all declared donations to political parties since January 2014; and calls on all political parties to voluntarily publish donations until this time."

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Cladding on Flats and High Rise Buildings

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

"This Council:

- expresses its deepest sympathy to the victims and families of the Kensington fire tragedy;
- notes with concern that the cladding used in the refurbishment contributed to the disaster; and
- notes that it has a statutory duty to enforce the Building Regulations standards, which includes requirements on health, structural stability and fire safety.

Accordingly, the Council calls upon the Department of Finance to undertake an immediate review of all fire safety requirements and guidance issued under the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 to ensure that they are based upon the most recent developments in fire safety design and construction.

The Council will provide advice to government, NIHE, housing providers and industry on any changes to the Regulations designed to protect the safety of residents in flats or other high rise buildings and will ensure that any changes to Building Regulations to protect the safety of residents in flats or other high rise buildings are enforced on all new developments or refurbishments across the City.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Historical Institutional Child Abuse Inquiry

Proposed by Councillor Heading,
Seconded by Councillor O’Neill,

“This Council notes that the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Child Abuse found that children’s homes run by some churches, charities and state institutions in Belfast and elsewhere in Northern Ireland were the scene of widespread abuse and mistreatment of young residents.

The Council notes that Sir Anthon Hart, Chair of the Inquiry, recommended compensation, a memorial and a public apology to abuse survivors.

The Council expresses deep concern that, due to the failure to form a power-sharing government, there has been no progress into implementing the Hart HIA Redress Findings.

The Council agrees to write to political party leaders in Northern Ireland to ensure that, if an Executive is formed, the Inquiry’s recommendations are implemented in full as a matter of urgency.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Opposition to Weapons Manufacture in Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Milne,
Seconded by Councillor Collins,

“This Council notes with grave concern that funding and support is directed towards a substantial number of businesses within Belfast which are actively engaged in the funding, design and manufacture of deadly weapons. A number of these Belfast-based businesses will be offering support to, or exhibiting at, the world’s biggest arms and weapons fair, Defence and Security Equipment International (DESI), which will be held in London in September, 2017.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to both Invest NI and the Department for the Economy requesting that support for the weapons industry be withdrawn and redirected towards building a sustainable economy.”

(To be debated by the Council)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Craig", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a trailing flourish.

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance and Resources

Council

ANNUAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Thursday, 1st June, 2017
at 6.00 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, McGimpsey,
L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and
Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell,
Bunting, Clarke, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves,
Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson,
Johnston, 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, McKee and R. Patterson and Councillors Boyle, Carson, Collins, Jones 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 2nd May be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Annual Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st June, 2017**

Official Announcements

Expression of Sympathy

Several Members referred to the death on 28th May of the father of the Lord Mayor and extended to him their deepest condolences.

The Lord Mayor thanked the Members for their kind remarks.

Manchester Terror Attack

The Council noted that, following the recent attack in Manchester, the Lord Mayor had written to Councillor Eddy Newman, Lord Mayor of Manchester, and to Mr. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, to express his deepest sympathy at the loss of life and to pledge his support to the people of the city.

Mr. Eamon Deeny

Councillor Graham informed the Council that Mr. Eamon Deeny, Head of Corporate Communications, would be leaving the Council in the near future to take up employment with the Northern Ireland Office.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr. Deeny for the contribution which he had made during his time with the Council and wished him success in his new role.

Request to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from a number of broadcasting companies to film the installation of the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor.

The Council agreed to accede to the requests.

Appointment of Positions of Responsibility for 2017/2018

The Chief Executive drew the Council's attention to a report which identified the persons who had been selected by the Nominating Officer of each Political Party to hold the following Positions of Responsibility in Year 3 of the current Council term:

Position of Responsibility	Party	Nominated Member
Lord Mayor	Alliance	Councillor McAllister
Deputy Lord Mayor	UUP	Councillor Copeland
Chairperson Strategic Policy and	Sinn Fein	Councillor Hargey

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Position of Responsibility	Party	Nominated Member
Resources Committee		
Deputy Chairperson Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	DUP	Councillor Graham
Chairperson City Growth and Regeneration Committee	Sinn Fein	Councillor O'Donnell
Deputy Chairperson City Growth and Regeneration Committee	UUP	Councillor Dudgeon
Chairperson People and Communities Committee	DUP	Alderman Sandford
Deputy Chairperson People and Communities Committee	Sinn Fein	Councillor Garrett
Chairperson Planning Committee	SDLP	Councillor Lyons
Deputy Chairperson Planning Committee	Alliance	Councillor McDonough- Brown
Chairperson Licensing Committee	DUP	Alderman Spence
Deputy Chairperson Licensing Committee	Sinn Fein	Councillor Carson
Chairperson Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Shareholders' Committee	Sinn Fein	Councillor Walsh
Deputy Chairperson Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Shareholders' Committee	UUP	Councillor Johnston

The Council agreed to appoint the Members to the positions of responsibility for 2017/2018, as set out above.

Expressions of Thanks

The Lord Mayor reviewed his term in office and expressed his appreciation for the support which he had received from his Political Party, his family, the Deputy Lord Mayor, the High Sheriff, the previous High Sheriff and other Members. He thanked also the Chief Executive and staff from across the Council who had assisted him over the course of the year and wished the incoming Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor every success over the forthcoming year.

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The Deputy Lord Mayor reviewed her year in office and thanked the Lord Mayor, her Political Party, her family, other Members and Council staff for their support. She concluded by wishing Councillor McAllister and Councillor Copeland well in their role of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, respectively.

Tributes

Representatives of each of the Political Parties on the Council paid tribute to the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had fulfilled their duties during their year in office.

Installation of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that it had, earlier in the meeting, approved the Positions of Responsibility for 2017/2018 and that Councillor McAllister had been nominated to serve as Lord Mayor and Councillor Copeland as Deputy Lord Mayor for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2018.

Accordingly, Councillor McAllister and Councillor Copeland were installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor McAllister thanked her Political Party for nominating her to serve as Lord Mayor, highlighted her main priorities for the forthcoming year, which would focus upon the theme 'Global Belfast', and paid tribute to the previous Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had carried out their duties.

Councillor Copeland paid tribute also to the previous Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, thanked her Political Party for nominating her to serve as Deputy Lord Mayor and outlined the main objectives for her term in office.

(The Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, in the Chair.)

Change of Membership on Committees

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from two Political Parties of the following changes to Committees:

Alliance

- Councillor Jones to replace Councillor McDonough-Brown on the Licensing Committee; and
- Councillor McDonough-Brown to replace Councillor Jones on the Planning Committee.

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Sinn Fein

- Councillor O'Donnell to replace Councillor Carson on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- Councillor Carson to replace Councillor Magennis on the Licensing Committee; and
- Councillors Beattie and Campbell to replace Councillors Clarke and O'Donnell on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Council approved the aforementioned changes.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May be approved and adopted.

Amendment

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

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May, under the heading "Designation of Belfast District (or the City Centre) as a Holiday Resort", be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland, in the Chair.)

Requests for Funding

At the request of Councillor Kyle, the Chief Executive undertook to submit to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and to the Shared City Partnership a report providing further information around funding, equality and other issues associated with the proposal by Féile an Phobail and Belfast South Community Resources to deliver a pilot diversionary programme in the South and West of the City.

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Thursday, 1st June, 2017**

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May were approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 9th May be approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th May be approved and adopted.

(The Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, in the Chair.)

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Prior to the following minute being proposed and seconded, the Chief Executive reminded the Council that, at the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 12th April, those Members who were also on the Planning Committee had, on the basis of advice which they had received from the City Solicitor around a related planning application, withdrawn from the meeting whilst the matter was under consideration.

She confirmed that that advice applied also to this meeting and, accordingly, those Members of the Planning Committee who were present withdrew from the Council meeting until the matter had been concluded.

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the minute of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 12th April, under the heading "Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan", be approved and adopted.

**Request for the Matter to be Taken
Back for Further Consideration**

Councillor Hargey requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson acceded to the request, however, it was declined by the Council.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara,

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 12th April, under the heading "Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan", be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

On a recorded vote, twenty-three Members voted for the amendment and fifteen against and it was declared carried.

<u>For 23</u>	<u>Against 15</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Clarke, Corr, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Long, Magennis, McCabe, McConville, McVeigh, Milne, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dudgeon, Graham, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage and

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

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 16th May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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Thursday, 1st June, 2017**

Notices of Motions

Checklist for Social Security Decision-Makers

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

Special Status for North of Ireland

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hargey.

The proposer agreed, at the request of Councillor Lyons, to amend her motion to read as follows:

“This Council calls upon the European Commission to agree a special designated status for the North of Ireland, following Brexit. This special status should incorporate provisions included within the Good Friday Agreement, in particular Strand Two, and uphold the human rights and equality protections currently in place which are derived from our current membership of the European Union.

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

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On a recorded vote, twenty-seven Members voted for the motion, as amended, and nineteen against and it was declared carried.

<u>For 27</u>	<u>Against 19</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Clarke, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Craig, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.

Belfast Youth Forum Report on Poverty in Belfast

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

“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”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Campbell.

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

Developers' Contributions

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

“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.

**Annual Meeting of Council,
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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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McAteer.

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

Fire Brigades Union

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

"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".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

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

Shrouds of the Somme

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hutchinson.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 6th June, 2017
at the hour of 2.00 p.m., pursuant to Notice.

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

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Browne, Convery, McCoubrey and McGimpsey and Councillors Boyle, Carson, Collins, Corr-Johnston, Heading, Lyons and Mullan.

Request to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from a broadcasting company to film the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Death of Councillor Mervyn Jones

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister),
Seconded by Councillor Long and

Resolved – That the Council records its deepest sympathy to the family circle of Councillor Mervyn Jones and pays tribute to his service to the citizens of Belfast as an Elected Member for twenty-eight years.

**Special Meeting of Council,
Tuesday, 6th June, 2017**

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) and Councillor Long spoke to the Motion and paid tribute to Councillor Jones.

Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Attwood, Kyle, McVeigh and Reynolds, on behalf of their Political Parties, spoke also to the Motion and paid tribute to Councillor Jones and were followed by Alderman Sandford and Councillors Armitage, Howard, McDonough-Brown, Nicholl and O'Neill.

The resolution was passed in silence, the Members standing.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd June, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also Attended: Councillor O'Neill.

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;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st June.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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 in relation to the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme. The report provided details regarding social and community benefit clauses, a supply chain opportunity event and updates on the Andersonstown, Brooke, Avoniel/Templemore and Robinson centres.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd June, 2017**

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and, in relation to the Andersonstown temporary car park, agreed that the Council enters into a licence agreement with the landowner for three years for the temporary car park site, with an option to extend to five years and further enters into a Development and Cost Collaboration Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure and the GAA to secure shared apportionment of costs.

Year End Management Accounts

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report which presented the financial outturn for the Council for the year ended 31st March, 2017. It included a reporting pack which contained a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary. It also provided a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and covered the outturn for the year and implications for reserves and the year-end Treasury Management position.

He reported that the departmental position for the Council was a year-end underspend of £1.915m, of which £1.896m would be used to finance the clawback from the Council by Land and Property Services, with the remaining balance of £19k being added to the Council's general reserves.

The Year-end capital financing expenditure was £1.278m below budget, due to slippage in the capital programme. Accordingly, the Committee was asked to consider the allocation of that balance to specified reserves to fund the expenditure detailed below:

Description	Amount
Linguistic Diversity	£25,000
Security	£100,000
Smart Belfast	£370,000
Property Dilapidations	£500,000
Car Parking	£75,000
Total	£1,070,000

After discussion, the committee agreed to allocate £1.070m of the capital financing year-end underspend as detailed above.

The Director reported that that left a balance of £208k and the Committee needed to consider whether if that should be allocated to a number of funding requests which had been received or to general reserves.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

That the remaining capital underspend of £208k be allocated as follows:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd June, 2017**

Description	Amount
Pilot Diversionary Programme	£100,000
Orangefest	£30,000
East Belfast Community Dev. Agency	£20,000
Amateur Boxing Strategy	£50,000
City of Belfast Youth Orchestra	£8,000
Total	£208,000

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by councillor Hutchison,

That the remaining capital underspend of £208k be used for the following purposes:

Description	Amount
Pilot scheme for an early intervention programme to address educational inequalities	£100,000
Reserves	£108,000
	£208,000

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

Further Amendment

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the remaining capital underspend of £208k be used to meet the following requests for funding:

Description	Amount
Pilot Diversionary Programme	£100,000
Orangefest	£30,000
East Belfast Community Dev. Agency	£25,000
City of Belfast Youth Orchestra	£8,000
Reserves	£45,000
Total	£208,000

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

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd June, 2017**

The amendment was put to the Committee as the substantive motion, with seven Members voting for and six against and it was declared carried

It was noted that the Council, at its meeting on 1st June, had delegated authority to the Committee to make the decision on whether or not to fund the proposal in relation to the Pilot Diversionary Programme and therefore that part of the decision did not require Council ratification.

Giant's Park, North Foreshore

The Committee considered a report which provided an update in relation to development proposals at Giant's Park, North Foreshore.

After discussion, the Committee noted that:

- i. marketing of the Environmental Resource Park on the southern portion of the site was ongoing, with interest shown from various sectors in the cleantech and environmental industry. Due diligence was currently ongoing also in respect of detailed proposals received from two companies for a proposed pipeline of complimentary renewable energy and waste projects and a further report would be submitted to the Committee on this in due course if it progressed;
- ii. following an Expression of Interest marketing process for the proposed Commercial Leisure Led/Mixed Use development on the northern and western portions of the site, nine submissions had been received. Following the Stage 1 evaluation, it was agreed that eight of these submissions now progress to the more detailed Stage 2 process, with further details being brought back to the Committee following the Stage 2 process;
- iii. the film studio development by Belfast Harbour Commissioners had now been completed, with the lease agreement between the Council and BHC in place from 8th June 2017. The first production to be housed in the new studios had been announced as the Superman prequel, KRYPTON, a series in association with Warner Horizon Scripted Television; and
- iv. work was currently underway by the Council's Economic Development Section, working with Property and Projects, to develop an employment initiatives programme targeted at the various sectors proposed for Giant's Park.

**Council Standing Orders – Qualified
Majority Voting**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th May, it had adopted the recommendations in a report on the annual updates to the Council Constitution documents. One of those recommendations was to approve some minor changes to the Council's Standing Orders. One of those changes was to amend Standing Order 47 on the Call-In Process.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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The proposed change was recommended due to the receipt of a letter from the Director of the Local Government Policy Division of the Department for Communities. In the letter the Director had advised that, based upon legal advice which the Department had received, the Council should amend its Standing Orders to provide that any decision which is called-in under Section 41(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (that is, Community Impact) must be reconsidered by the Council by way of a qualified majority (that is, 80% of members present and voting) regardless of the opinion which was received from the practising Barrister or Solicitor. Previously, the Council's Standing Orders had required the use of a qualified majority **only where the opinion of the Barrister or Solicitor was that the call-in had "merit"**.

In May the Committee had noted that the City Solicitor had sought legal opinion regarding this matter due to a number of concerns that had been raised by a number of local councils regarding the Department's direction. Advice had now been received from Senior Counsel which departed from that received from the Department for Communities in that he advised that the best sense that could be made of the relevant legislation currently in place was that qualified majority voting should only be used in circumstances where a decision called-in under Section 41(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 was found by a practising Barrister or Solicitor to have merit. Where the opinion is that the merit test has not been met then the reconsideration of the decision should be under the usual rules of simple majority.

Based upon this advice, it was recommended that the Committee rescind its decision of 19th May in so far as it related to the proposed change to Standing Order 47 and to approve the revised Standing Order.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

City Centre Investment Fund

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the inclusion of the Aurora Real Estate Fund (Aurora) in the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF), including progress made to date, a summary of advice received from KPMG and the planned next steps.

The Committee delegated authority to the Director of Finance and Resources in relation to progressing further negotiations with Aurora and to agree and issue Heads of Terms based upon the principles laid out in the report. It agreed also that Aurora could mention in its funding discussions/materials that Belfast City Council had given a conditional commitment to it in terms of a £5m investment as part of CCIF.

Organisational Development Update

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration an update report on the organisation development.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. That, in addition to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), the third elected member from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to comprise the selection panel for the post of Strategic Director of Place and Economy be nominated by the Alliance Party;
2. That the three selection panels to recruit the posts of Operational Director for Planning and Building Control; Operational Director for Economic Development; and Operational Director for City Regeneration in the new Place and Economy Department be constituted by the City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees at their next meetings in August 2017, with the outcome of the recruitment exercises being reported back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for noting;
3. That, in addition to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), the third elected member from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to comprise the selection panel for the post of Director of Strategic Development be nominated by the SDLP; and
4. That the elected members from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to comprise the selection panel for the replacement post of Head of Corporate Communications should comprise the Chairperson; the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), with the third Member to be nominated by the UUP, along with the Chief Executive or a Council Director and another Council Director, to balance the panel in terms of gender and community background.

Bonfire Inter-Agency Working

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services tabled a report which provided an update on the Inter-Agency Bonfire Programme of Work and various work streams.

The Chief Executive outlined the very difficult situation which the Council faced when dealing with bonfires and that, given what had arisen, she proposed to carry out a full review of the circumstances and actions and the future approaches going forward.

A lengthy discussion then ensued, during which the Chief Executive and the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services answered a number of questions in relation to the removal and storage of the bonfire material and its subsequent theft from the storage area.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed:

- that an investigation and full review, led by the Chief Executive with independent input, would be carried out into the issue of collection and storage of bonfire material, and the future approach to bonfires across the city; and
- that a report on the contractual position relating to bonfire material retrieval be submitted to a future meeting.

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Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That any of the pallets which were still held in storage by the Council should not be returned to the bonfire sites and the Council should not store pallets from bonfire sites in the future.

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

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion - Belfast Youth Forum

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider a notice of motion in relation to the Belfast Youth Forum Report on Poverty which, in accordance with standing orders, was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st June.

1.2 This report also contains context information on the Belfast Agenda, which has a focus on inclusive growth and reducing poverty in the city. It is proposed that Members may wish to consider establishing a Member-led programme to explicitly address the issue of inclusive supported by specifically commissioned evidence to support the development of new policy and strategic approaches to addressing the issue on a city-wide and local basis. This would form part of the implementation plan for the Belfast Agenda moving forward. If the Committee agrees a more detailed report will be brought back to a future meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Consider the notice of motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.**
- **Consider establishing a member led programme to focus on the objective of inclusive growth and addressing poverty, supported by commissioned evidence to inform the development of new policy and strategic approaches to addressing the issue on a city-wide and local basis.**

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Council on 1st June, the following notice of motion, which was proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor Campbell, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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”.

- 3.2 As Members are aware the Belfast Agenda contains a commitment to promoting inclusive growth in the city which includes reducing levels of economic inequality and poverty. The draft document states:

- 3.3 ***“For Belfast to work we need as many people as possible to contribute to, and benefit from, its success.***

This is why the Belfast Agenda is not just about economic growth but about all the things that make the benefits of growth as inclusive and widespread as possible. We need to address interlocking issues of poverty, economic inactivity, unemployment and underemployment. In particular we need to create jobs and make sure that those most in need of work can get those jobs.

Inclusive economic growth is about more and better jobs; improving living standards and earnings; offering in-work progression and challenging barriers to employment. As it is about improving life chances, it is something that no one organisation or sector can deliver alone; we must do it together.

Our priorities for the next four years include making sure that people have the best life chances and best living experience no matter where they are born or live in Belfast.”

- 3.4 There is the opportunity now, as we move forward to implement the Belfast Agenda to build on research such as that carried out by the Belfast Youth Forum, the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and others to develop an agreed narrative on what inclusive growth

means for Belfast, develop the right evidence-base within which to drive effective policy, design intervention and monitor progress and work with partners to bring together an integrated programme of work. This would build upon the work that has taken place around these issues and draw together in a more strategic and impactful way the various interventions Members have already agreed to address these issues in the city, including the employability pipe-line model, maximizing the social value of procurement and city and neighbourhood investment programmes as well as the work the council does to mitigate the impact of poverty, for example for older people and those in fuel poverty.

- 3.5 To support this work it is proposed that we commission a specific piece of evidence to support the development of new policy and strategic approaches to addressing the issue of inclusive growth and reducing poverty on a city-wide and local basis. This would form part of the implementation plan for the Belfast Agenda moving forward and bring together the various strands of evidence that already exist to ensure maximum impact. The Belfast Agenda includes a commitment to develop an inclusive growth monitor and this would assist with that process.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

The budget for this work has been included within the revenue estimates for 2017/18.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also to set up a Poverty Forum consisting of Elected Members, NGOs in the city already dealing with poverty, statutory agencies and a member of the Youth Forum.

Notice of Motion re Fire Brigades Union

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 1st June, the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McVeigh, had been referred, in accordance with standing orders, to the Committee for consideration:

"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.

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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”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

The Committee agreed to establish a Members’ Steering Group and that the motion be considered, in the first instance, by that group with a report on the matter being submitted to the Committee in due course.

Notice of Motion re Shrouds of the Somme

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st June, the following notice of motion, which was proposed by Councillor Reynolds and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

The Committee agreed to establish a Members’ Steering Group and that the motion be considered, in the first instance, by that group with a report on the matter being submitted to the Committee in due course.

Belfast Agenda

City Region Growth Deal update

The Committee was reminded that it had agreed to commission a full feasibility study on a City Region Growth Deal (City Deal) at its meeting in December and, following a competitive process, KPMG had now been appointed. The Organisation had been tasked to provide a detailed evidence base, including forecast modelling, which sets out the rationale, financial construct and benefits (financial and social) of a City Deal.

The outline timeline for delivery from KPMG was as follows:

Deliverables	By when
1. An initial City Deal ‘narrative’ to build partner and political engagement, and secure buy-in.	Mid-June
2. Financial and economic modelling reports based on potential geographies and investment priorities, and analysis report on infrastructural needs, financing options and preliminary delivery routes for ‘pathfinder’ projects	Mid-September
3. Detailed City Deal proposal	End March

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Throughout the process, there would be ongoing political and stakeholder engagement. This would include intensive engagement with:

- Belfast City-Region Councillors and officers;
- Newry, Mourne and Down, and Derry and Strabane Councillors and officers;
- NI Assembly representatives;
- Northern Ireland Office and Taoiseach's Office/Department for Foreign Affairs;
- Business sector including large businesses and representative bodies
- Innovation sector including universities, further education and innovation hubs; and
- City stakeholders such as the Belfast Harbour Commission; and
- NI Civil Service departments, notably the Department for Infrastructure; and the Department for Finance.

A detailed advocacy schedule for the next 12 weeks was being prepared. The culmination of that process would be formal engagement with the Treasury in late summer/early autumn, in partnership with the NI Executive and relevant councils.

Further to the political engagement in the past 6 months at Westminster, Stormont and in Council, an initial narrative paper had been prepared entitled *When Belfast Succeeds...* Subsequently, a workshop had been held with city partners and included a presentation from the KPMG team on deals elsewhere and the process for securing a deal for Belfast.

As a result of that series of discussions, an influencing/position paper had been prepared which sets out more of the detail on a potential City Deal vision, objectives and targets. It outlines the city-region's competitive advantages and how we propose to construct a compelling programme of 'asks' that would demonstrably build inclusive growth, particularly in preparation for exit from the EU.

The purpose of the influencing/position paper was to engage in more meaningful discussions with NI Assembly parties, other local councils and the British and Irish governments. It would also be presented to the Belfast Agenda's Economic Forum at its scheduled meeting later this month.

The Committee noted the progress to date and agreed to the next steps.

**Belfast City Council Corporate Plan 2017-21
and Programme for Delivery 2017-18**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present for agreement the Council's high level corporate plan for 2017-2021, which will be reviewed annually and the council's delivery programme for the first year of the plan 2017/18. Both documents are based upon decisions which Members have taken about city and corporate priorities as part**

of the process for developing the 'Belfast Agenda', Belfast's first community plan, as well as organisational priorities agreed by Members as part of the financial planning and rate-setting process and committee planning process. They draw heavily on engagement with the public about improvement priorities and socio economic analysis of the city. The corporate plan incorporates the council's improvement plan for 2017/18, which has been produced in accordance with the improvement duty set out within the Local Government Act 2014.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- approve the council's Corporate Plan 2017/21 subject to annual review and update and
- approve the corresponding Programme for Delivery 2017/18

3.0 Main report

Corporate Plan 2017-21

3.1 The corporate plan is a key governance document, cited in the council's constitution as the means by which the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee sets the strategic direction of the council. It sets out what the council wants to achieve for the city and the key priority actions to make this happen.

3.2 The corporate plan document is the culmination of a range of organisational and city-wide planning led by Members over the last year and builds upon the one-year plan agreed by Members in April 2016. Since that time, significant work has been undertaken to finalise for consultation the 'Belfast Agenda' – Belfast's first community plan. Members have agreed that the priorities of the organisation should align to those within the Belfast Agenda, which has at its heart the idea of 'inclusive growth' for Belfast.

3.3 Consequently the Corporate Plan focuses largely on the 4 key 'pillars' of the Belfast Agenda which aim to take forward programmes of both economic and social progress for the people and communities across the city. The document also contains a programme related to creating a 'fit for purpose' organisation, which includes customer focus, service improvement, organisational development and the efficiency programme. This also includes reference to the council's

physical programme as this programme will deliver across a wide range of economic, social and environmental outcomes.

3.4 As members will be aware, a significant amount of organisational planning has already taken place, underpinned by an extensive range of consultation and engagement activities, which has provided a strong foundation upon which to finalise the Corporate Plan for 2017/21. This work has included:

- The on-going development of the Belfast Agenda, including a wide range of stakeholder engagement events;
- Planning workshop with the SP&R Committee to which all Members were invited;
- A survey of 1,500 residents which asked them to consider their priorities for the city;
- The 2017/18 revenue estimating process and the departmental and service planning assumptions which underpin this;
- The development of committee plans for the City Growth & Regeneration Committee and the People & Communities Committee.
- The Belfast Agenda is being finalised for launch in the Autumn and an update will be brought to the Committee's August meeting. The corporate plan will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure on-going alignment with the Belfast Agenda.

Programme for Delivery 2017-18

3.5 Members have stressed the importance of ensuring an effective and properly resourced programme delivery approach to ensure that the council's priorities are executed. Therefore, whilst the corporate plan sets out the council's priorities at a high level, in a public-friendly way, the programme for delivery sets out in detail the key milestones and activities that will be delivered over the coming year across the organisation. In order to support delivery a clear process has been put in place with ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress including regular reporting to Members on both individual projects and the overall plan. The purpose of this is to help give Members assurance around delivery of council priorities and also to clarify accountability.

3.6 Both the corporate plan and the programme for delivery form part of a suite of strategic planning and management documents which are brought to Members on a regular basis and are all designed to support the achievement of Members'

ambitions for the city, these include committee plans, the capital programme, financial plans and audit and risk plans.

Performance Improvement

- 3.7 Members will also be aware that the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 introduced a duty on council to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of [its] functions. The council therefore has a statutory obligation to publish an Improvement Plan setting out the Council's Improvement Objectives. The Northern Ireland Audit Office will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this duty and will undertake an examination of the planning process the council uses to derive their improvement objectives and its progress against them. The Corporate Plan therefore incorporates the council's improvement plan, which lays out more explicitly our improvement objectives. These improvements, as is the case with all of our objectives, cascade from the council's priorities as informed by a wide body of evidence including a far reaching consultation process which informed the development of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan.

3.8 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Costs for the implementation of the council's Corporate Plan and delivery programme have been factored into the budget estimates for 2017/18.

3.9 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

As part of the Belfast Agenda and corporate planning process, residents and other stakeholders have been consulted through our residents' survey and other stakeholder engagement events. The corporate plan and delivery programme contain actions intended to promote equality and good relations."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Annual Performance Report 2016-17

The Committee considered the Council's Annual Performance Report 2016-17, together with a quarter 4 update on the projects and milestones contributing to the achievement of the Council's corporate improvement objectives as agreed in the 2016-17 Corporate Plan.

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The Committee:

- noted and approved the Annual Report;
- noted and approved the quarter 4 corporate performance report for the 2016-17 period; and
- noted that the process for monitoring and reporting the Corporate Plan objectives was subject to formal audit by the Northern Ireland Audit Office and that the abovementioned reports would be provided as part of the Council's evidence of compliance with its Performance Improvement duty (Part 12 Local government (NI) Act 2014).

Recruitment of the Belfast Commissioner of Resilience

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Belfast is now a member of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) program, and, as a member, will receive funding to appoint a Commissioner for Resilience who will champion the development and implementation of a Belfast resilience strategy.**
- 1.2 This senior role, reporting to the Chief Executive, will be fully funded by 100RC for an initial two year period. After this period Belfast City Council and 100RC will carry out a substantial review of the role (to align with the Resilience Strategy's recommendations) with the intention of creating a revised permanent post within Council.**
- 1.3 The Council, with logistic and recruitment support from 100RC, now wish to begin a global 'Executive Search' recruitment process to appoint a suitable candidate for what is likely to be a high profile and demanding role.**
- 1.4 In addition, as part of our 100RC membership, international consultants Ricardo Energy & Environment, have been appointed to develop an evaluation framework to support the wider resilience work program including the work of the Commissioner. This will begin with a baseline study to be carried out from August 2017 and engagement with a wide spectrum of relevant stakeholders, including Elected Members.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the following:

- 1. To give approval to proceed with the Executive Search for Commissioner for Resilience including providing delegated authority to the Chief Executive and/or Deputy Chief Executive to participate, along with 100RC, in the recruitment of the Commissioner.**
- 2. To note the initiation of the baseline study and the opportunity for Elected Members to engage in the development of the evaluation framework.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Rockefeller Foundation's '100 Resilient Cities' programme provides expert support to cities across the world to help them understand and prepare for future social, economic and environmental shocks and stresses. These issues could range from coastal flooding, to mass unemployment, transport issues, social unrest, or infrastructure failure.**
- 3.2 Each participating city is offered access to a global network of resilience experts, practical solutions, service providers, and consultancy partners. 100RC also provides funding for a 'Commissioner for Resilience' to work with stakeholders to develop a resilience strategy which will be embedded within wider city planning processes. Locally, the resilience strategy will align closely to the Belfast Agenda's economic growth outcomes.**
- 3.3 Belfast is now in a position to work with 100RC to recruit the Commissioner for Resilience. This will be a significant strategic role within Council, reporting directly to the Chief Executive. With logistical and expert advice from 100RC in New York, the Council will undertake a global executive search process for the position. It is proposed that, with delegated authority, the Chief Executive (and Deputy Chief Executive) will work with colleagues from 100 Resilience Cities to carry out the recruitment process.**
- 3.4 The post will be fully funded by 100 Resilient Cities for an initial two years. After this period Belfast City Council and 100RC will carry out a substantial review of the role (to align it with the new Resilience Strategy's recommendations) with the intention of creating a revised permanent post within Council.**

3.5 In a related strand of work, international consultants, Ricardo Energy & Environment, have been appointed by 100RC to develop an evaluation framework for Belfast. Work on this will begin in August 2017 with a baseline study and the consultants will engage with a wide spectrum of relevant stakeholders, including Elected Members.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

In addition, to fully funding the Commissioner role for two years, 100RC will also support wider work to develop and implement the resilience strategy. This includes:

- Access to international consultancy expertise in Year 1 to the approximate value of \$240,000.
- Funding for the launch and publication of the Belfast resilience strategy.
- Capacity building, training and global networking programme for the Commissioner
- In the second year, the Commissioner will be able draw on expertise from a range of 100RC consultancy partners up to a potential value of up to \$5,000,000.

It is envisioned that the Commissioner will draw upon a number of existing Council resources in the delivery of his or her work including officers from the planned Strategic hub and the Smart Belfast team.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications, in relation to this policy, are still under consideration. Further updates will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer in due course.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will be aware that the Council manages a substantial physical programme under a range of funding streams. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current

status of the Programme and the emerging implications for future investment decisions.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to–

- note the achievements under the physical programme since the beginning of the Investment Programme in 2012 and to note the scale of the Council's current Physical Programme which covers over 300 projects worth in excess of £325m
- note that the physical programme is one of the most important and high profile programmes delivered by the Council due to its visibility on the ground and the positive reputational impact that it has. Given this Members have expressed a desire to continue to deliver a substantial physical programme going forward.
- note that the capital financing budget will come under pressure of all projects currently in the programme are to be delivered and given this there is a need to review how schemes are prioritised in the context of the Council's overall affordability limits; alignment with the strategic objectives under the Belfast Agenda and the Corporate Plan and ensure that they are fully cognisant of other assets and ongoing initiatives in an area. To aid this it is therefore proposed that a prioritisation and outcomes framework to help Members make informed, evidence based physical investment decisions is developed and to help ensure that Members can invest in those projects which deliver maximum returns for the city and local areas
- given the complexity of this area agree that a series of Party Group briefings are undertaken on the Physical Programme and the proposed prioritisation framework

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Physical Programme – Role as an Enabler for transformational change

In setting the context within this paper it is important for Members to appreciate from the outset that the Council's physical programme is not simply about the stand-alone development of new facilities or assets but that all physical projects are an enabler in their own right towards the achievement of the City's and the Council's wider strategic

objectives under the Belfast Agenda and the Corporate Plan (which the Committee is also considering on the agenda today).

3.2 Physical Programme – Achievements to date and current programme

Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme under a range of funding streams. In addition to the delivery of our own projects the Council is becoming the delivery agent of choice for external projects across the city

Funding stream	KEY DETAILS
Capital Programme	Rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones .
Leisure Transformation Programme	£105m in the Council's leisure estate. 7 major redevelopments
Local Investment Fund (LI1 & LIF2)	£9million fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets (£5m – LIF1 and £4m – LIF2) . Minimum investment of £15,000 - Maximum £250,000). Over 130projects
Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)	£28.2million rolling programme of investment in partnership projects Minimum council investment £250,000 - 38 projects in total
Planned Maintenance Programme	A £6m rolling programme of ongoing maintenance on existing council assets.
Non –recurrent maintenance projects	A fixed programme of nonrecurring projects funded from the capital financing budget.

Key achievements to date

3.3 Members will be aware of the many of the great achievements that have been delivered under the Physical Programme since the launch of the Investment Programme in February 2012 including

- **Delivery of over £200m of projects including the £40m Connswater Community Greenway project, the £30m Waterfront Exhibition and Conference Centre, the £27m**

new corporate accommodation for staff, the £9m Innovation Factory, the £8m infrastructure at the North Foreshore, the £11m Girdwood Community Hub, more than £15m on new pitches and pavilions, over £5m on playgrounds and MUGAs; the £2m upgrades of Dunville and Woodvale Parks; the £3m Mary Peter's Track, the £1.3m new visitor attraction in the City Hall; the Bike Share Scheme, the completion of over 60 LIF projects worth £4.3m and the recent completion of the redevelopment of Willowfield Church Halls which received £560,000 of BIF investment

- Levering in over £100m in external funding which surpassed the initial target set of £50m. The Council is continuing to look for opportunities for external funding and has recently secured HLF funding for the redevelopment of both the City Cemetery and the Templemore Baths. Other monies recently levered in includes £290k from the Department for Communities for the new pavilion at Sally Gardens, and £100k for a new sensory garden at the Blacks Road together with £2.4m from HLF for the redevelopment of Tropical Ravine
- External recognition of projects – Members are asked to note that the Girdwood Community Hub was recently awarded the RICS Northern Ireland Project of Year. The RICS awards celebrate inspirational initiatives in the land, property and construction sectors. The highly acclaimed Project of the Year title is presented to the scheme which demonstrates overall outstanding best practice and an exemplary commitment to adding value to its local area. This is a very prestigious accolade with the judges noting that *“when Belfast City Council stepped in with the ambitious cross-community hub concept, it seemed a noble but impossible idea. Yet in the two years since opening it is in full use by all communities, it has opened previously blockaded streets and peace walls and created a positive ripple effect”*. In addition, the Waterfront won the Commercial Project of the Year. Other awards that the Council has won for the physical programme include Councillor Initiative of the Year for the LIF programme at the NILGA Awards and the Waterfront also won an accessibility design award from the William Keown Trust

Current Programme

- 3.4 The Council's current physical programme encompasses over 300 projects including -

- over 100 projects on the Capital Programme including the £4.2m redevelopment of the Tropical Ravine, the rollout of phase 4 of our alleygating programme which will see a minimum of 300 gates installed across the city and a new changing pavilion at Sally Gardens. In addition, works will commence on new pitches and pavilions at Falls Park and Cherryvale Playing Fields and a new mini 3G pitch at Clarendon and environmental upgrades at Skegoneil and Falls Park
- 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 Centre
- 35 BIF projects which includes 12 which are at Stage 3 –Committed with the 23 projects currently being worked up
- A £9m LIF programme –70 projects either underway or agreed in principle
- a £6m annual rolling programme of maintenance

3.5 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 30 projects across the city under the Building Successful Communities initiative, Urban Villages or the Social Investment Fund. Delivering these type of projects, while a recognition of both the successful track record of the Council as a delivery agent for capital projects and also the uniquely placed role of the Council as a civic leader in the city also bring with them their own risks and issues and a separate paper on this is on the agenda for discussion today (See *Council's role as a delivery agent – Update paper*).

Physical Programme – Challenges and Implications for Members

3.6 Members will appreciate that the Council's physical programme is one of the most important programmes delivered by the Council and due to the nature of capital projects it is also one of the most visible and easily recognisable signs of the Council's civic leadership role in the city. Moving forward the Council will face two key challenges in respect of the capital programme. These are:

- The capital financing budget will soon come under pressure if all the projects currently in the programme are to be delivered.
- The need to ensure that Investment decisions are taken within the context of strategic alignment with the

**Belfast Agenda and in full consideration of what assets
already exist in an area and how these are being used**

3.8 It is therefore proposed that a prioritisation and outcomes framework to help Members make informed, evidence based physical investment decisions is developed. It is envisaged that this will form part of the three stage approval process for physical projects which Members have previously approved and will ensure that the physical programme is aligned with the city outcomes framework and the Belfast Agenda to ensure that the maximum benefits and outcomes are achieved. This will also ensure that the projects which Members choose to invest in are those which deliver the maximum benefit for the city and for local areas.

3.9 Given the complexity of this issue and its implications for Members in terms of future decision making it is proposed that a series of Party Group briefings are undertaken on the Physical Programme and the prioritisation framework. It is proposed that the briefing areas will include - City/area strategy; Use of existing assets; Affordability; Prioritisation; Whole life costs and Benefits

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The Council’s physical programme covers a number of funding streams as outlined in 3.2 above

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Area Working Update

The Committee considered an update report on the area working and:

Area Working Group Minutes

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups (AWG) as follows: West AWG 25th May; North AWG 30th May and South AWG 31st May.

Local Investment Fund

- adopted the recommendation of the North AWG which had agreed to recommend to the Committee that the Brantwood and Loughside FC project

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(NLIF061) be phased into 2 phases, each subject to match funding being secured within 12 months; and

- noted that the LIF project - NLIF2-19 Women's Tec, which had previously been approved in principle had been scored, that this project has met the threshold and agreed that this was progressed to due-diligence.

Future Area Working Update reports

- noted that, giving the changing nature of the work of the Area Working groups and the move away from a focus on the physical, it was proposed that this report be taken forward by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services which would help align this with area and neighbourhood planning.

Council Role as Delivery Agent

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Council is acting as the delivery agent for a range of capital projects on behalf of other organisations including the Executive Office and the Department for Communities. The purpose of this paper is to update Members on the current status of these projects and to highlight a number of emerging issues in relation to the delivery of the SIF projects.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- **the projects which the Council has committed to deliver under the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) on behalf of the Executive Office along with the committed projects under the Building Successful Communities (BSC) on behalf of the Department for Communities as laid out at 3.2-3.5 below**
- **that the Council has now been awaiting approval to proceed on a number of the SIF projects which it has signed LOOs to deliver for a number of months and a number of Groups have contacted the Council directly requesting clarification and expressing their frustration at the ongoing delays in the process. Members are asked to note that the Council's role in respect of these projects is to act as the delivery agent only and that these issues are outside the control of Council. Members are asked to note that the Council officers have escalated these issues with the Executive Office**

but it is also proposed that the Council writes to all affected groups updating them on the current status and advising them of the current status and the Council's role within the process

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** Members will be aware that over the past couple of years the Council has been requested to deliver a series of capital projects under a number of externally funded initiatives including the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) on behalf of the Executive Office together with projects Building Successful Communities (BSC) on behalf of the Department for Communities. In addition the Council is also taking forward a number of other projects on behalf of the Department of Communities. These requests recognise both the successful track record of the Council as a delivery agent for capital projects and also the uniquely placed role of the Council as a civic leader in the city. There are also a sign of confidence in the Council and recognition of the Council's increasing role in terms of regeneration and community planning role. Letters of offer have been signed for over 40 projects worth approx. £8m

Department for Communities

Building Successful Communities

- 3.2** Committee is asked to note that under the Building Successful Communities initiative the Council has already successfully delivered 14 projects worth nearly £1m under way with works finalising on the remaining bike docking stations at Carlisle Circus and Twin Spires. In addition the Council is taking forward a range of feasibility studies under BSC

BSC AREA	PROJECT	STATUS
Lenadoon	Provision of 7 Alley-gates	Completed
Lenadoon	Provision of 26 Alley-gates	Completed - plus one additional gate
Lenadoon	First Steps Early Year Group Refurbishment	Completed
Lenadoon	Kids Together Outdoor Play Area	Completed
Lenadoon	Lenadoon Park Fencing Replacement	Completed
Lower Falls	Provision of 12 Alley-gates	Completed
Lower Falls	Installation of 2 no Bike Docking	Servia St

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	Stations	operational. Twin Spires due to be operational before end of June
Lower Falls	Refurbishment - St Mary's	Completed
Lower Falls	Provision of Banner at Radio Failte site	Completed
Lower Oldpark	Installation of 2 no Bike Docking Stations	Completed (Girdwood and 174 Trust)
Lower Oldpark	Refurbishment of LOCA Centre	Completed
Lower Shankill	Environmental upgrades - Peter's Hill Pumping Station, Millfield Corner, Townsend St	Completed

- 3.3 Other – The Council is also taking forward Phase 1 of the works on Springfield Dam on behalf of the Department for Communities. As previously agreed by Committee this asset will transfer to the Council upon completion of these works.**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Urban Villages

- 3.4 The Council is delivering the following projects under the Urban Villages initiative. Members are asked to note that many of these projects are still at the development stage and that the focus of work is on technical design and assistance at this stage. The Council is however proposed to be the delivery agent for the build phases of these projects if they progress.**

Area	Project	Status
South	Inner City South Belfast Sure Start	Completed
Colin	Saints Boxing Club - Refurbishment	Completed
Colin	Lagmore Community Forum – New build	On ground
Colin	Colin Urban Park and Play Park	Design stage – consultation feedback
South	Rev Bradford Memorial Playground	Design stage – consultation analysis
South	Sandy Row Playpark	Completed (site investigation)
North	Ballysillan Park/ Playing Fields	Project paused for review of needs analysis, options and further liaison with

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Area	Project	Status
		stakeholders
South	Sure Start Lighting	Design stage
Eastside	Belfast Bike Share Scheme	Letter of offer received

In addition the Council is in discussions with the Executive Office on a range of other emerging projects under Urban Villages (including Glenbryn Playground, Gilpins, Marrowbone Millennium Park and the Skyline Building Newtownards Road along with a range of city wide projects including alleygates). Members will be kept up to date if any of these projects progress.

Social Investment Fund

3.5 The Council is due to be the delivery agent for the following projects under the Social Investment fund on behalf of the Executive Office.

Project	Description	Status
Westland Community Centre	New Build Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Arts for All	Refurbished Community Facility	Not through due diligence
PIPs Suicide Prevention Ireland	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
NBWISP	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Joanmount Methodist Church	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
St Comgall's	Refurbished Interpretive Centre	Letter of offer being signed
Titanic People	Refurbished Tourism Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Walkway Community Centre	New Build Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Greenway Women's Centre	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Mount Merrion Parish Development Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Oasis Early Years Intervention Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Glenburn Methodist Church Community Outreach Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
Mornington Community Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder
South City Resource Centre (St. Simon's Church Hall)	Refurbished Community Facility	Awaiting approval to proceed from funder

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Project	Description	Status
Lanyon Tunnels	New Community / Social Economy Facility	Not through due diligence

- 3.6** However as can be seen from the table above the majority of these projects are awaiting approval from the Executive Office to proceed. This is for a variety of reasons including queries on charges and clarification on issues including title.
- 3.7** Members will however be aware that SIF was established in 2012 and all capital projects were originally due to be completed by 2015. Understandably the Groups who are due to receive funding are now becoming increasingly frustrated with the process and a number of them have written to the Council to express their concerns and have raised issues politically. A number are now also expressing their intention to withdraw from the process if no progress is made in the coming months. The issue in this regards is that there is a danger that SIF is seen as the Council's funding stream and that the Council is responsible for the delays and from this perspective there is a potential reputational risk to the Council. The Council has escalated these issues with the Executive Office and is awaiting a response. However in the interim to mitigate any further reputational risk it is proposed that the Council write to all affected groups appraising them of the current position and advise them if they have any queries in respect of the process that these are directed to the Executive Office.
- 3.8** Members are asked to note that in the interim officers are progressing what works can be carried forward (see separate asset report this month in respect of the Social Investment Fund Asset management update) so that projects are in a better position to progress when/if permission to proceed is received from the Executive Office.

Other projects

- 3.9** Members are asked to note that the Council is proposed to be the delivery agent for two projects which are currently seeking Peace V funding – Blackmountain Shared Space Centre and the Shankill Women's Centre. These projects are currently both at Stage 2 in terms of the SEUPB appraisal process with the outcome due to be known in November. This is in addition to the Council's own proposals for capital works under the Belfast Local Action Plan.
- 3.10** **Financial & Resource Implications**

- **Financial – SIF and UV are Executive Office initiatives while BSC is being taken forward by the Department for Communities**
- **Resource - Officers time to deliver projects.**

3.11 Equality & Good Relations Implications

No implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Assets- Estates Update Report

Glenburn Methodist Church Hall – New Licence

The Committee granted approval for the Council to enter into a 2-year licence agreement with Glenburn Methodist Church for use of its Church Hall.

Benview Community Centre – New Licence

The Committee agreed to enter into a new 2-year licence agreement with Benview and Ballysillan Avenue Tenants Association for use of Benview Community Centre as a Playcentre.

Proposed licence from the Department for Communities for land at Girdwood

The Committee agreed to take a licence from the Department for Communities (DfC) for two areas of additional land at Girdwood Park and noted that the Girdwood Hub had recently won the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors NI overall Project of the Year award. The project would now go through to the final award ceremony to be held in London and it was agreed that the Director of Property and Projects (or nominee) be authorised to attend, together with two Councillors from the North Area Working Group.

Lock Keepers Cottage Visitors Centre – New lease for The Tea Rooms

The Committee agreed to grant a new 5-year lease to Lawrence Huddleson for the Tea Rooms at Lock Keepers Cottage Visitors Centre.

Corporation Street off street car park – Licence renewal

The Committee agreed to the renewal of the 1-year licence with the Department for Infrastructure for the off street car park at Corporation Street.

**Cregagh Youth and Community Centre –
New licence for use of School Hall**

The Committee agreed to enter into a new 5-year licence agreement with the Education Authority for the Council's use of Cregagh Primary School Hall.

**Cregagh Youth and Community Centre – New licence to Ulster Rugby for
occasional use of overflow car park**

The Committee agreed to enter into a new 11-month licence agreement with Ulster Rugby for their occasional use of the overflow car park adjacent to Cregagh Youth and Community Centre.

Social Investment Fund Lease Requirements

The Committee noted the Executive Office requirements in relation to security of tenure issues relating to SIF projects on Council assets and approved:

- The grant of a 50-year Lease to Westland Community Group for an area of land at the Council's Waterworks Park.
- The grant of a minimum 25-year extension of the existing lease to Greenway Women's Group at No.19 Greenway, Cregagh Road.
- The grant of a 50-year lease to Walkway Community Association for the land at Finvoy Street.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Efficiency Programme 2018/19 – 2019/20

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report provides a summary of the key financial risks facing the Council over the next three years and outlines the approach to the future efficiency programme for 2018/19 – 2019/20.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- **note the update on the efficiency programme and that a further report will be brought to Committee in August 2017.**

3.0 Main report

Pay Bill Cost Risks

- 3.1** The pay settlement for 2016/17 and 2017/18 was 1% increase. At this stage a 1% pay increase is assumed for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, although given the current level of inflation the pay claim is expected to be higher than 1% per annum. A management side pay briefing will be held in late July 2017.
- 3.2** NILGOSC have advised that following the triennial review in 2016, employer contribution rates would increase by 1% in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. A 1% increase in 2020/21 has also been assumed.
- 3.3** The Apprentice Levy remains at 0.5% of the pay bill and the annual increase will therefore be minimal.
- 3.4** The impact of increases in the national living wage have not been quantified at this stage.

Committee Decisions Affecting 2018/19 Estimates

- 3.5** The following decisions will require growth in the 2018/19 revenue estimates.
- Additional BCC security staff for city centre office locations (£164,500).
 - Linguistic Diversity (£30,000)

Summary of Employee Costs and Committee Decision Increases

3.6 Table 1: Employee and Committee Decision Cost Increases

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Pay Rise	893,486	902,421	911,445
Pensions	831,579	847,295	862,827
Security	164,500		
Linguistic Diversity	30,000		
Total	1,919,565	1,749,716	1,774,272
District Rate Increase	1.28%	1.17%	1.18%

Other Financial Risks

- 3.7 **Other Inflation Increases:** Inflation impact on supplies and services contracts including energy and fuel. Current CPI rate 2.9% with forecast of between 2.6% - 2.8% for 2018/19. In addition, the introduction of the National Living Wage is likely to increase the cost of supplies and services as contractors pass on increased costs.
- 3.8 **Central Government Grants:** High degree of uncertainty about the current and future central government budgets and the potential impact on the Council.
- 3.9 **Loss of Income:** Potential for further reduction in levels of income e.g. decline of the North Foreshore electricity generation.
- 3.10 **Waste Disposal Costs:** The Council will face significant year on year increases in waste disposal contracts arising from the arc21 residual waste contract or interim contracts.
- 3.11 **Belfast Agenda:** Resource requirements to deliver priorities such as Employability and Skills, Tourism and Events.
- 3.12 **European Capital of Culture:** Additional resources required for the build-up of events and support to the ECOC year.
- 3.13 **Capital Investment:** The financing of Members capital investment ambitions and emerging large scale projects such as the crematorium and the cemetery provision.
- 3.14 **Whole Life Costing:** Additional costs required to operate and maintain new facilities e.g. future replacement programme of new 3G pitches.

Future Efficiency Programme

- 3.15 **As part of the medium term financial strategy the Committee agreed the following actions for 2018/19:**
- **Achieve cash savings of £2.5m per annum 2018/19 and 2019/20.**
 - **Additional income of £0.5m per annum 2018/19 and 2019/20.**
 - **Progress towards £2m cash savings from Leisure to be transferred to Leisure capital financing.**

- Achieve further savings of £576k from the Waterfront and Ulster Hall Model to be transferred to the subvention / sinking fund.
- Achieve further cash savings of £852k from accommodation costs to be transferred to 9 Adelaide capital financing.

3.16 The Committee also agreed that the efficiency programme would be based on the following strands of work:

- Income Maximisation
- Procurement
- Service Redesign
- Alternative Service Models
- Asset Management
- Back Office
- Rate Base

Organisational Context

3.17 Over £22m of cash savings have been removed from base budgets over the past 10 years, with savings of £2.9m removed for the 2017/18 revenue estimates.

3.18 Members should recognise that there will be a degree of difficulty in achieving the 2018/19 efficiency targets because:

- It is a difficult and uncertain economic environment.
- The increasing trend in inflation will impact on running costs and the basis for the 2018/19 pay claim.
- The easy budgetary challenge savings have been removed from estimates in previous years.
- The degree of change in the organisation impacts on the capacity of resources available to plan, and deliver the savings.
- Major savings will require reconfiguration of services which is complex and time intensive process and will require difficult political decisions.
- The major proportion of back office and support services costs is staffing and making significant savings in these areas will therefore involve difficult human resources and political decisions.
- The efficiency target has been increased from £2m per annum to £2.5m expenditure savings plus £0.5m additional income.

Work in Progress

- 3.19 Council officers are working with IESE to complete a detailed revenue analysis and forensic testing of commercial income / expenditure across services by the end of July 2017. This will provide options to support robust cost reduction targets, cost recovery from demand led services and maximising income from commercial activities.
- 3.20 Organisational development programme progressing and will include addressing issues such as spend on agency and overtime. The work will be supported by a third phase of VR programme with non-recurrent costs funded from the VR reserve.
- 3.21 Fleet Management proposals being considered and a report will be presented to the Committee in August 2017.
- 3.22 The Commercial Panel is now operational and is developing a programme of cross departmental activities to generate procurement savings through better procurement and spend management. The panel is also researching alternative service model options for some demand led services for political consideration.
- 3.23 ICT programme in progress to use technology to improve innovation, customer service and efficiency of business processes. This includes replacement of the HR / Payroll System.
- 3.24 City Regeneration projects and Smart Cities and IRRV projects are continuing with the aim of growing and maximising income from the rate base.

Next Steps

- 3.25 An outline programme which identifies areas where expenditure savings and additional income will focus will be brought to the August 2017 Budget Panel and SP&R Committee.
- 3.26 **Financial and Resource Implications**

The implications of the efficiency programme will be considered at the August meeting of the Committee.

3.27 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Assurance Framework and Annual
Governance Statement for 2016-17**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The end of the financial year is a busy time of year for the Council. We are required by statute to produce a complex set of draft accounts and accompanying audit and governance related information.**
- 1.2 The purpose of this paper is twofold;**
- Firstly, to explain to Members the key elements of the ‘year-end’ process and the ‘assurance framework’ that the Council has developed over recent years to help ensure that the Council complies with statutory requirements and Members and senior officers can have effective, ongoing oversight of the Council’s governance and assurance arrangements. It will also help explain the context of the various reports now being presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.**
 - Secondly, to present the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17, for consideration and inclusion in the unaudited statement of accounts which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2017 and then subject to NIAO audit. The Statement has been considered by the Audit & Risk Panel but must be signed by the Committee Chair.**
- 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement is an important document and it is important that the committee is fully aware of its contents. The disclosures in the statement are based upon the Council’s corporate risk register and take into consideration the disclosures made by Chief Officers in their individual annual assurance statements. The Annual Governance Statement also incorporates a summary of the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Service’s annual assurance statement.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Note the Council's Assurance Framework, described in section 3 below.
- Review the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 and, in particular, the disclosure of the significant governance issues contained in the statement.

2.2 Following review, the statement will be incorporated into the Council's unaudited financial statements for 2016/17 and certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2017. It will be subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

2.3 Following the audit, the Annual Governance Statement, as part of the audited statement of accounts will be approved by the Chair of Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Council's Assurance Framework is summarised at Appendix 1. It shows how different sources of assurance and related key elements / control measures combine to enable the Council to monitor its governance arrangements and produce the information which enables the Council to prepare their Annual Governance Statement. The diagram also shows how the Council's Audit & Risk Panel, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Council provide oversight of these governance arrangements. The key elements of the framework are described below.

3.2 Financial Control

A Financial Report for the y/e 31st March is prepared annually and submitted to the Department for Communities by 30th June. The Report is then audited by the NIAO and published by 30th September each year (after approval by Committee). There is a budgetary control process including budget setting, budget monitoring and budget reporting. The process is challenged corporately by Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R)

Committee when budgets are approved annually and performance is reported quarterly. Standing Committees are also responsible for challenging and approving their annual budget and subsequently scrutinizing their budget performance at the end of each quarter in the following financial year.

3.3 Performance Management

The Council's performance management framework supports the implementation of the corporate, departmental and service plans through regular monitoring, reporting and review and, in future, will support monitoring / reporting on Community Planning / Belfast Agenda outcomes. These plans set out what the Council intends to deliver over the course of the year and through the performance framework regular performance reports are produced detailing progress against key milestones and targets. These reports are considered by Departmental Management Teams (DMTs) and the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and actions for improvement are agreed. These arrangements are also designed to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duties in relation to performance improvement and our performance and related plans are subject to annual NIAO audit.

3.4 Internal Audit

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. The Council has an Audit Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) section, which prepares an annual Strategy and Plan of work designed to ensure that:

- there is a robust system of internal audit of key Council activities and processes through a plan of work which affords suitable priority to the Council's objectives and risks
- there is a process of ensuring improvements to the Council's control environment, by providing management with advice, training and recommendations to improve risk management, governance and control arrangements, including the formal monitoring of the implementation of audit recommendations
- the Head of AGRS will be in a position to provide, at the end of each year, a professional, evidence-based opinion on the adequacy of the Council's risk management, control and governance arrangements

which, in turn, will support the preparation of the Council's Annual Governance Statement

- the Council meets its legislative responsibilities for internal control, risk management and internal audit.

3.5 External Audit

Each year, the Local Government Auditor (LGA) (the Northern Ireland Audit Office) (NIAO), completes an audit of the Council's accounts in accordance with legislation and the Local Government Code of Audit Practice issued by the Chief LGA. The LGA Annual Report sets out their opinion on the Council's financial statements and is included within the annual Financial Report. The NIAO also examines annually whether the Council has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources and that public money is properly accounted for and undertakes an annual audit and assessment of the Council's performance improvement arrangements. Their findings are summarised in an Annual Audit Letter, a Performance audit report and a Report to those Charged with Governance.

3.6 Assurances from Management & Governance Statement

Each quarter, each Chief Officer, signs a Quarterly Assurance Statement confirming:

- Their responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound risk management and internal control system which supports the achievement of the corporate, departmental and service plans.
- compliance with the risk review process and outlining progress to manage key risks

3.7 In addition, at the year-end, the quarterly process is extended to all Senior Managers who are required to complete an Annual Assurance Statement and to highlight any significant governance issues that should be considered by the Chief Officers for inclusion within the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

3.8 Risk Management

There is an agreed risk management strategy which sets out the processes the Council has put in place to manage risk. Risk registers and risk action plans are in place at corporate, departmental, service and, where appropriate, unit level and are recorded on the corporate risk management system, MK Insight. There is reporting to CMT, the Assurance Board, the

Audit & Risk Panel and relevant Committees on risk management.

3.9 Programme Management

A team of Programme and Project Managers support and provide assurance over the delivery of the Council's Capital and Investment programmes and other projects and regular reports on the progress and future delivery plans are taken to a senior management Oversight Board and the SP&R Committee.

3.10 Health and Safety (H&S)

The Council has an H&S Policy in place with an associated Organisation Structure and Arrangements to deliver on the Policy. The Corporate Health and Safety Unit reports on a quarterly basis to a senior management H&S Assurance Board and then on to the Audit Assurance Board and Audit & Risk Panel on compliance and strategic matters regarding the Council's health and safety management system. Operational matters are dealt with through the quarterly H&S Committee structure. Routine reports include information on performance against health and safety targets, accident statistics, policy changes, legislative changes and emerging health and safety issues. The Corporate H&S Unit deliver an annual programme of health and safety inspections, audits and training to monitor and support the management system. Risk assessments are in place at an operational level to identify and manage health and safety risks.

3.11 Our Code of Governance

Underlying our Assurance Framework is our Code of Governance. The Council is committed to the principles of good governance and our Code of Governance is a public statement of that commitment. Our Code has been prepared in line with best practice and a summary is contained in the Annual Governance Statement (para 3.15).

3.12 Policies, procedures and processes

Policies, procedures and processes are designed to underpin day to day operations. A new policy management and compliance process is currently being developed.

3.13 Audit Assurance Board

The Assurance Board is a mechanism established by the Chief Executive to ensure senior corporate management oversight of risk, control and governance issues arising from AGRS and other sources. The Board comprises the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources and the City Solicitor.

3.14 Audit and Risk Panel

The Audit and Risk Panel in Belfast City Council is established as a working group reporting to the Council's SP&R Committee. It undertakes the functions of an Audit Committee. Its purpose is to provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. It may also report, with the approval of the SP&R Committee, to other standing committees on matters that are of direct relevance to the responsibilities of these committees.

3.15 Strategic Policy & Resources Committee (SP&R) reporting

An accompanying report and the minutes of the Audit and Risk Panel are approved by the SP&R Committee. The SP&R Committee also oversees directly the financial management / stewardship of the Council.

3.16 Preparation of Annual Governance Statement

The Council has a statutory responsibility to annually prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of the Financial Report. Many different processes inform the preparation of the AGS as can be seen from the Assurance Framework at Appendix 1. Specifically, the AGS sets out:

- scope of the responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- the review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- an update on the significant governance issues disclosed at year-end 2016
- significant governance issues to be disclosed for year-end 2017 and action proposed to address them.

3.17 The AGS for 2016/17 is presented at Appendix 2. The Annual Governance Statement will be incorporated into the unaudited statement of accounts and certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2017. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

3.18 Following the audit, the Annual Governance Statement, as part of the audited statement of accounts will be approved by the Chair of Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.

3.19 Financial & Resource Implications

None

3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Annual Report and Review of the Audit and Risk Panel

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Committee that the Audit and Risk Panel was constituted as a working group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The purpose of the Panel was to provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. The Panel also oversees the Council's financial reporting process. During 2016/17 the Panel met 5 times (including a training session at Belfast Castle).

The Panel had considered audit plans and issues arising from audit activity, such as the findings, assurance levels and recommendations arising from audit work and the progress being made to implement audit recommendations. It also received regular updates on:

- the Council's financial position, as set out in its financial statements
- reports from the Council's external auditors
- risk management
- business continuity
- fraud, financial irregularity and whistleblowing investigations
- governance related matters
- financial control
- health and safety
- staff attendance.

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The key assurances that the Panel had received on these were as follows:

- the Council's financial statements and annual governance statement, as prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources and his team; this provided a management assurance on the Council's financial position
- the audited accounts and the associated external audit annual letters for 2015/16 (providing an opinion on the accounts) and report to those charged with governance (setting out control issues arising from the annual external audit), as prepared and presented by the Northern Ireland Audit Office. This provided an external assurance on the Council's financial position for 2015/16. (The accounts for 2016/17 are in the process of being audited).
- the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Service's annual assurance statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's risk management, control and governance arrangements, based on the findings of audit work completed throughout the year.

Where areas for improvement had been identified these had been reported and implementation of agreed recommendations was actively monitored and reported back to the Panel. The Panel had, on occasions, raised issues where either audit reports had identified significant issues or progress against recommendations had not been satisfactory, with Directors asked, where necessary, to attend the Panel and provide further explanation. The key areas considered during 2016/17 had included planning, waste management and procurement, where relevant Directors and senior managers had attended Panel meetings and provided information on current arrangements and improvement plans.

The Audit and Risk Panel had also received updates during the year on the Council's risk management arrangements, including reports on the management of the Council's key corporate risks. That process had been supplemented by direct reporting to Committees on their key risks.

The Committee noted the summary of the work of the Panel during 2016/17.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the audit and Risk Panel of 16th June.

Corporate Risk Management

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Audit and Risk Panel is constituted as a working group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The purpose**

of the Panel is to provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. The Panel also oversees the Council's financial reporting process.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary to Committee of the key issues that have been considered and discussed by the Panel during the 2016/17 financial year, the assurances received and the areas requiring attention and present minutes of the last meeting of the Panel for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the summary of the work of the Panel during 2016/17 as set out at Section 3 below.
- Approve the minutes of the Audit & Risk Panel of 13 June 2017.

3.0 Main report

Summary of the work of the Audit and Risk Panel in 2016/2017

3.1 During 2016/17 the Panel met 5 times (including a training session at Belfast Castle).

3.2 The Panel has considered audit plans and issues arising from audit activity, such as the findings, assurance levels and recommendations arising from audit work and the progress being made to implement audit recommendations. It also received regular updates on:

- the Council's financial position, as set out in its financial statements
- reports from the Council's external auditors
- risk management
- business continuity
- fraud, financial irregularity and whistleblowing investigations
- governance related matters
- financial control
- health and safety
- staff attendance.

3.3 The key assurances that the Panel has received on are as follows:

- the Council's financial statements and annual governance statement, as prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources and his team; this provided a management assurance on the Council's financial position
- the audited accounts and the associated external audit annual letters for 2015/16 (providing an opinion on the accounts) and report to those charged with governance (setting out control issues arising from the annual external audit), as prepared and presented by the Northern Ireland Audit Office. This provided an external assurance on the Council's financial position for 2015/16. (The accounts for 2016/17 are in the process of being audited).
- the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Service's annual assurance statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's risk management, control and governance arrangements, based on the findings of audit work completed throughout the year.

3.4 Where areas for improvement have been identified these have been reported and implementation of agreed recommendations is actively monitored and reported back to the Panel. The Panel has, on occasions, raised issues where either audit reports have identified significant issues or progress against recommendations has not been satisfactory, with Directors asked, where necessary, to attend the Panel and provide further explanation. The key areas considered during 2016/17 have included planning, waste management and procurement, where relevant Directors and senior managers have attended Panel meetings and provided information on current arrangements and improvement plans.

3.5 The Audit and Risk Panel have also received updates during the year on the Council's risk management arrangements, including reports on the management of the Council's key corporate risks. This process has been supplemented by direct reporting to Committees on their key risks.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

None.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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; and
- (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:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of Tenders for consideration

Table 1 – NEW TENDERS

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Procurement support service including strategic advice and expertise	Gerry Millar	12 months
BEMS new panels Duncrue Complex, Belfast Castle and Malone House	Gerry Millar	3 months
BEMS new panels Duncrue Complex, Belfast Castle and Malone House	Gerry Millar	3 months
Annual valuation of Belfast City Council’s property assets	Gerry Millar	Up to 4 years
Removal, Storage and Retrieval of Office Records	John Walsh	5 years with option to renew for a further 5 years on an annual basis
MIPIIM 2018	Suzanne Wylie	Up to 1 year
Delivery of manned security and events stewarding services - Lot (3) - Cash and valuables in transit	George Wright	Up to 4 years
Delivery of manned security and events stewarding services - Lot (1) - Manned security services	George Wright	Up to 4 years
Delivery of manned security and events stewarding services - Lot (4) - Key holding services	George Wright	Up to 4 years

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Delivery of manned security and events stewarding services – Lot (2)Events Security Services	George Wright	Up to 4 years
Refresh of Open Spaces	Nigel Grimshaw	9 months
Mobile CCTV Vehicle	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years
Off street car parking enforcement	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Facilities management agreement for Mary Peters Track	George Wright	5 years
Supply and delivery of frozen raptor and reptile food	Nigel Grimshaw	4 year
Supply and delivery of frozen fish for Belfast Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	4 year
Supply and delivery of live animal feed for Belfast Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	4 year
Supply and delivery of wet pour repairs in various Parks sites	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Hire of heavy plant for Waste Transfer Station	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option of additional 1 year extension
Collection and treatment of rigid plastics	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years with option of additional 1 year extension
Collection and treatment of asbestos (hazardous waste)	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years with option of additional 1 year extension
Collection and recycling of mixed waste timber	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years with option of additional 1 year extension
Treatment/recycling of various waste streams – including Residual from Household Recycling Centres	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years with option of additional 1 year extension
Collection and treatment of paints and varnishes	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years with option of additional 1 year extension
Advertising for Planning	Phil Williams	Up to 4 years
Provision of animal healthcare service	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Provision of medical referee for Cemeteries	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Provision of service to control pest birds at Waste	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years with option of additional 1 year

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Transfer System		extension
Reception Treatment of Street Sweepings	Nigel Grimshaw	
Treatment and Disposal of a proportion of residual waste	Nigel Grimshaw	
Provision of kerbside collection and treatment services for recyclable materials	Nigel Grimshaw	7 years with option of additional 3 yearly extensions
City Business Start-up Programme	Donal Durkan	Up to 2 years
International Trade and Export Development Programme	Donal Durkan	Up to 4 years
Retail and Tourism support Programme	Donal Durkan	Up to 4 years

Table 2 – Contracts for Extension of contract period

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Provision of Employment Agency Services	John Walsh	6 months and then on a month to month basis until a new contract in place
Term contract for Drainage Works	Nigel Grimshaw	31 March 2018
Measured Term Contract for repair & maintenance of swimming pools filtration & ozone generation	Gerry Millar	Month to month from July until new contract in place
Measured Term Contract for repair & maintenance of CCTV systems	Gerry Millar	Month to month from August until new contract in place

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership Meeting

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 12th June and specifically the following recommendations:

- To note the contents of the update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression programme;
- To approve the recommended approach to developing proposals around future approaches to St Patrick's Day Celebration grants;

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- To note the dates for Community Relations and Cultural Diversity week and approve the recommendation that Belfast City Council hold an event with partners to mark International Day of Peace on 21 September 2017;
- To note the contents of the Peace IV update paper and approve the recommendation that the Shared City Partnership hold a workshop to look at future membership before its next meeting in August;
- To note the Partnership's decision that it was not in a position to make a recommendation in relation to the request for support from Feile/BSCR because it did not have sufficient information and that Strategic Policy and Resources committee should consider; and
- To note that the Belfast Health Trust's Good Relations Strategy was now out for consultation as was the Council's draft Linguistic Diversity Policy.

Operational Issues

City and Neighbourhood Services
Change Management

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 In March 2017, Committee agreed the objectives for the Change Programme as:

- Integrated city wide and area working in addition to improved delivery of services;
- Improved focus on customers, partners and relationship management;
- Increased efficiencies, value for money, employability and skills opportunities;
- Enhanced political and community engagement; and
- The creation of a new departmental culture and identity, including future structure.

Work has been ongoing over recent months, and this report presents progress and next steps to be agreed.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree the overarching narrative for the developing area management structure.**

- Agree that the Director, supported by Corporate HR/OD, take the appropriate next steps towards implementation, including formal consultation with affected staff and TU representatives.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** An emerging functional diagram is appended to this report, setting out at a high level a direction of travel in relation to the next tier of management supporting the Director and Assistant Directors, to enable the effective management of a department of scale and ensure integrated support for the anticipated area management model. This includes four 'portfolios':

1. Neighbourhood Services;
2. City Services;
3. City Waste Services; and
4. Support Services.

Area Working

- 3.2** In the objectives outlined above, the integration of services is a key driver. For elected Members, this is particularly important on an area basis, to enable their place-leadership mandate. In order to meet this, the department, supported by Corporate HR/OD, has been examining the functional implications to organise its services on an area basis.

- 3.3** The starting point for this has been a core set of assumptions, based on previous discussions with elected representatives, and benchmarking work, on what a 'model' Neighbourhood Services Portfolio looks like, namely, that they:

- Are passionate about outcomes for their area and local neighbourhoods
- Provide dynamic operational leadership for the area, communicating the vision of neighbourhood regeneration
- Are a single point for customers (internal/external), by designing professional services from the point-of-view of the customer
- Stimulate a culture of pride and collaboration, with a 'figure it out' attitude amongst their teams to deliver the best for local places, with communities
- Have the right mix of resources, skills and experience, good data and local intelligence

- Are well-connected with elected Members, local communities and partners to prioritise and deliver creative, innovative solutions, including making connections and building collaboration with other parts of the city.
- 3.4 In terms of the 'right mix' of resources, skills and experience, it is imperative that we ensure that a Neighbourhood Services Manager is sufficiently resourced to be effectively responsive, but also balances economies of scale that are value for money, and minimising duplication. Work is ongoing in relation to the appropriate 'blend' of services in that portfolio, but likely to include community safety, community services, neighbourhood regeneration, as well as some elements of local operations.
- 3.5 The four senior officers would operate on a geographical basis – north, south, east and west – correlating to the District Electoral Areas around which the Area Working Groups are organised. There will be a role for the AWGs in terms of setting priorities and in-year re-prioritisation, but this requires further discussion with them. However, in the early stages, they will certainly have a consultative role, to draw in their local intelligence, as well as their understanding of competing priorities in their areas.
- 3.6 It is proposed that a number of 'universal services' e.g. regulatory services are held under a City Services Portfolio, where the economies of scale mean that there is no advantage at disaggregating to an area level. A business planning process is developed by which the Neighbourhood Services Managers would 'bid' against an agreed annual, and in-year, where there are emerging priorities or seasonal 'spikes'.
- 3.7 The city centre area, geographically as defined by the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, will be included in the City Services portfolio, to ensure that interventions and operations are managed, appropriate to the objectives articulated in the CCRI strategy and Belfast Agenda.
- 3.8 It is imperative that there is a robust evidence-based planning, assurance and performance monitoring framework built around the structure. The implementation of this approach to area management is wholly dependent on the integration of support services (e.g. HR; finance; policy/planning; communications), which in turn, is inextricably linked to the outcome of the corporate review of support services.

3.9 In order to effectively support the Director and Assistant Directors, support a new area approach and to pull together the services from across the legacy departments, it is proposed that the above functions are integrated from across the services into a support function for the Directorate team. Recognising that these functions are all being reviewed as part of the corporate OD programme, it is proposed that the arrangements that the department puts in place will be interim.

3.10 It is proposed that the timeline for implementation for the Area Managers posts will be by December 2017. It is anticipated that the Business Support and Development function changes will be made over the coming immediate months. Consultation with the trades unions is ongoing and will continue in line with the agreed governance arrangements.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

Proposed structure will be accommodated within financial parameters for the Change Programme and overall corporate efficiency objectives.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Change Programme will continue to be screened for equality and good relations impacts.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Independent Review of the Leisure Operating Model

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19 May 2017, it had 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.”

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that draft terms of reference had been prepared for consideration by the Active Belfast Board. In addition, legal advice had been sought in respect of the context for the review of this major services contract, which had specified review points contained within the established contract agreements.

The terms of reference covered a range of issues raised by the Committee. He pointed out that, in the discussion, there was an emphasis on the need for an

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independence from the leisure partnership. This had ruled out a number of usual contractors for the Council and advice was now being sought from leisure networks to provide a list of recommended consultants with appropriate experience and understanding of the leisure services market.

The terms of reference are:

1. Undertake an independent review of the overall performance of the leisure operating model against the Council's original objectives, the future build programme and other plans as part of the ongoing transformational programme and business transformation process, including comparative analysis with other partnerships potentially UK wide;
2. Review of the 'customer journey', including market demand, marketing, and customer expectations and feedback;
3. Assess the operational documentation and practice against industry standards and regulations, including but not limited to, normal operating procedures, emergency action plans, pool safety measures, health and safety, and RIDDOR records;
4. Review employment practices in Belfast leisure services, including treatment of casual staff, pensions, terms and conditions, TUPE legacy, training and development, access to promotions, and trade union relations;
5. Provide a commentary on the overall state of the partnership and its governance, between the three parties to the contracts.

It was planned that the appointed consultants would engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including the following: elected representatives; GLL; Council officers; Active Belfast Limited; customers, staff and trade unions in Belfast leisure services.

It was anticipated that this work would take place over July and August, to report back to the Active Belfast Limited Board and the Committee in September, taking into account that there might be some delays due to holiday arrangements. Up to £10,000 had been prioritised from existing revenue budgets to commission an external consultant.

The Committee noted the terms of reference and process for the independent review.

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation
Panel June 2017**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 15th June.

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

The Committee:

1. approved the revisions to the current access and hospitality criteria as set out in 1.(a and b) below:
 - a) where a large event with significant international attendees is booked (which may often involve a bid to bring a specific event or function to Belfast) and is supported by the Belfast Welcome Centre the Committee may at its discretion waive or reduce any room hire charges and/or agree the provision of a civic drinks reception up to a maximum value of £500;
 - b) where an educational establishment seeks use of the City Hall prestige rooms the following approach to be applied: -
 - I. where an event is organised by a parent/teacher group or other voluntary grouping no room hire charges will be levied and the Committee may at its discretion provide civic hospitality;
 - II. where an event is organised and funded by a specific school or college etc. the lower rate of £300 will be applied and the Committee may at its discretion also provide civic hospitality; and
 - III. where an event is organised by an umbrella body (e.g. Education and Library Board, major University/College or group of schools/colleges etc.) the standard room hire rates and hospitality criteria will be applied subject always to the Committee's discretion.
2. approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to June 2017 as set out below:

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JUNE 2017 FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2017 EVENTS						
Community Engagement Network Awards	3 July 2017	Reception and graduation ceremony for group who completed course at University of Maynooth and celebrate the achievements of those on the programme. Attending 50	Yes – c & d	No charge (voluntary)	Hospitality – Tea/coffee reception at £2 per head	Allow No charge Hospitality Tea/ coffee reception
Women's Under 19 Championship Dinner	9 August 2017	Official dinner for the IFA to welcome the officials of participating nations and UEFA to Belfast for this Championship event. Attending - 100	Yes – a & b	£300.00	Yes Wine reception up to £500	Allow Charge £300 Hospitality – wine up to £500
Newington Credit Union 50 th Anniversary Celebration	28 October 2017	Welcome reception, dinner and evening to celebrate 50 years of Newington Credit Union branch. Attending 250	Yes – c	No charge (voluntary)	No hospitality	Allow No charge No Hospitality
Ulster Secondary Schools Athletics Association 50 th Anniversary Dinner	2 December 2017	Welcome reception, dinner and Q&A session with key Ulster athletes to celebrate 50 years of Ulster Schools	Yes – c & d	No charge (voluntary)	No hospitality	Allow No charge No Hospitality

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		Athletics. Attending 120				
Co Operation Ireland Graduation & Celebration	18 December 2017	Reception and graduation ceremony for NCS programme to celebrate the achievements of young people on the programme. Attending 200	Yes – c & d	No charge (voluntary)	Hospitality – Tea/coffee reception at £2 per head	Allow No charge Hospitality Tea/ coffee reception
2018 EVENTS						
Malaysian Night 2018 Cultural evening	3 or 10 March 2018	Gala dinner and cultural programme to celebrate Malaysian culture and students living in Belfast. Attending 300	Yes – b & d	No charge (voluntary)	No hospitality	Allow No charge No Hospitality
Legal Island – Equality and Diversity Awards 2018	23 March 2018	Welcome reception and dinner and entertainment to recognize organizations in NI championing diversity in the workplace. Attending – 280/300	Yes – c	£825.00	No hospitality	Allow Charge £825 No Hospitality
Institute of Historic Building Conservation Annual Conference 2018 Dinner	22 June 2018	Each year IHBC host a conference for members in venues throughout the UK. A dinner and awards evening for students and members. Attending – 140	Yes – a & b	No charge (charity)	Yes Wine reception up to £500	Allow No charge Hospitality – Wine reception
St Josephs College, (Ravenhill Road) Silver Jubilee Dinner	23 June 2018	Welcome reception and gala dinner & dance to celebrate the school being opened 25 years.	Yes – c	£300.00	No hospitality	Allow Charge £300 No Hospitality

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		Attending – 200+				
School of Computing	22 August 2018	Each year IHBC host a conference for members in venues throughout the UK. A dinner and awards evening for students and members. Attending – 140	Yes – a & b	£300.00	Yes Wine reception up to £500	Allow Charge £300 Hospitality – Wine reception

The Director of Property and Projects reported that in April an application for the use of the City Hall which had been submitted by Malayalis N.I. had been approved by the Committee. However, unbeknown to staff there had been a fallout in the group and two applications had been submitted on the same day and the application which the Committee had approved had been from the breakaway group. Accordingly, the Director suggested that the Committee might wish to honour both applications and the original group be also offered the use of the City Hall for an evening on the basis that in future years only up to one event would be approved.

The Committee approved this course of action.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Board Ltd

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Board Ltd. of 15th June.

Request for the Use of the Council Chamber and Reception Room

The Committee was advised that a request has been received from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) for the use of the Council Chamber in March, 2018 for its Annual General Meeting, which was held in different locations throughout the UK on an annual basis. In addition to the Council Chamber, the RIBA had requested the use of the Reception Room for lunch for the delegates. If the Committee was minded to approve the application, then there would be a charge applied for the use of the Reception Room in the amount of £115 for a daytime small-scale event and the Facilities Management Section had confirmed that the use of the Reception Room for this purpose would meet the criteria for the use of the City Hall which had been agreed by the Committee earlier this year.

The Members would be aware that Committee approval was required for the use of the Council Chamber by an outside body. Although such approval was rarely sought,

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the Committee had recently approved such use both for the Queen's University Students Union and the Belfast Youth Forum.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) was a professional body for architects primarily in the United Kingdom, but also internationally, founded for the advancement of architecture. It currently had 44,000 members.

The Committee approved the request from the Royal Institute of British Architects for the use of the Council Chamber and the Reception Room for its Annual Meeting in March, 2018.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 13th June, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillors O'Hara and McGimpsey.

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.

Death of Councillor Mervyn Jones

The Chairperson stated that he wished, on behalf of the Committee, to pay tribute to Councillor Jones and record its deepest sympathy to his family circle and also to the Alliance Party.

Noted.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting of 1st June.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update in Respect of Presentations at Forthcoming Meetings

The Committee agreed that:

- representatives from Contact NI would be invited to present, along with the Housing Executive, at the Special Meeting of the People and Communities Committee to be held on Wednesday, 2nd August; and
- representatives from Belfast Healthy Cities would be invited to present at the August meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, 8th August.

Restricted

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

Community Development Grants Programme

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the issues relating to the implementation of the Community Development Grants Programme 2017/18 and which offered options for the delivery of the 2018/19 programme.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that, given the complexities relating to the funding of the Programme and the current lack of clarity on the total available budget, officers were not in a position to present the Committee with informed options to enable it to make a decision. In addition, he reminded the Committee that the Council was currently in the process of tendering for a strategic review of its grants programmes which could take up to 18 months to implement.

The Committee:

- agreed to grant delegated authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to extend the existing Community Development Grant Programme large grant funding contracts (2017/18) linked to any received extension to Community Support Programme grant income;
- noted that the contract extensions would be directly linked to and be commensurate with the terms of the DfC Letter of Offer variance. This would include organisations in receipt of Generalist Advice, Capacity and Community Building Revenue Grants and contracts to non-grant supported organisations; and
- noted the complexities in relation to potential funding for the Community Development Grant Programme 2018/19 and agreed that a further outline report would be submitted once the Community Support Programme evaluation became available and the current review of Belfast City Council grants had been undertaken.

Britain in Bloom Awards

The Committee considered a report which provided details regarding Belfast City Council having been given the opportunity to host the 2018 Britain in Bloom Awards. The Committee noted that this event had not been held in Northern Ireland before. It was proposed that this prestigious event would be held in the Waterfront Hall and anticipated that 500 - 550 people from England, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland would attend.

The Assistant Director advised that the total cost to Belfast City Council would be a maximum of £25,000 which would be funded from existing revenue budgets. The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) had confirmed that it would

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contribute £2,500 towards the cost of the event and the Council had also applied to the Belfast and Northern Ireland Conference Subvention Scheme for £10,000. The Assistant Director advised that officers would investigate other funding stream options.

The Committee granted:

- authority for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and 3 officers to attend the Britain in Bloom Awards Ceremony, in Wales, in October 2017; and
- permission for Belfast City Council to host the Britain in Bloom Awards Ceremony in October 2018.

**Request for the use of the Boucher Road
Playing Fields**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received for the use of the playing fields at Boucher Road for one show that would include a number of acts. The Assistant Director stated that the acts for the concert had not all been confirmed but it was proposed that they would be top international acts and it was estimated that the concert would have a capacity of 40,000 plus staff.

The Committee granted authority to Akin Promotions to hold a concert at Boucher Road Playing Fields during the period 1st May -18th May 2018, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the event organiser resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the event organiser meets all statutory requirements, including entertainment licensing.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Committee Plan for 2017-18

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Service advised the Committee that at the planning workshop, held on 15th February, a number of priorities and actions had been identified within the context of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan and these had been included in the Committee Plan for 2017-18.

The Members were advised that the Committee plan was available on the Council's website [here](#) and it was noted that the Committee would receive a 6 monthly progress update report.

The Committee approved the People and Communities Committee Plan for 2017-18.

Waste Framework

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

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Members are requested to approve the attached draft strategy scenarios for managing waste – ‘*The Waste Framework*’.

1.2 Members may recall that there were a series of Party Group Briefings held on this topic during May which highlighted the focus of the Waste Framework upon four areas: Waste Collection Arrangements, Infrastructure, Behaviour Change and Technology. Useful feedback was received from these briefings and a number of amendments/enhancements were made to the Waste Framework to reflect these comments which is now being presented for consideration.

1.3 Following approval, a consultation exercise and programme of engagement will be developed to consult with stakeholders. This is to ensure that householders’ and others’ views are gathered to inform a final drafting of the Waste Framework which will then be reported to the Committee for final ratification, expected to be in late autumn.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve the draft ‘*Waste Framework*’ for consultation later this year.**

3.0 Key findings

3.1 Members may be aware that Waste Management has been developing a 10 year Waste Strategy and have sought to incorporate issues relating to emerging legislative requirements, changes in the local marketplace, the current status of arc21’s residual waste treatment facilities and Brexit. The Service has also been carefully considering how expenditure could be minimised, efficiency savings could be delivered and revenues maximised for the Council. This has resulted in a series of realistic scenarios being developed to achieve a 50% household waste recycling target and save money, while also aligning with the Belfast Agenda objectives

of supporting job creation. Waste Management has drawn carefully from experiences and recommendations from both Scotland and Wales to inform the development of this draft strategy, as both these regions have implemented progressive and forward-looking policies and strategies which their councils are now implementing.

- 3.2 Waste Management has also been in discussions with the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) officers in Wales (the third best performing recycling country in the world) and WRAP HQ (currently providing advice to several Governments across the world), as well as Zero Waste Scotland to test the assumptions used in the draft and critically review its content. As Members will recall, at several recent Committee meetings questions have been raised about how waste can play a more central role in creating and supporting jobs in Belfast, and this draft strategy has been designed specifically to focus upon improving the quality of recyclables collected so that it can make a more positive contribution to the circular economy and the jobs target contained within the Belfast Agenda. WRAP is in the process of formally responding to the draft Framework and their comments will be incorporated into the final version for Members' consideration later this financial year.
- 3.3 Of particular note, after modelling and interpretation, the recommended option in the Waste Framework aligns closely with the Collections Blueprint published in 2011 by the Welsh Government and to which several councils are presently transitioning. This blueprint was drafted to contribute to the delivery of '*one planet living*' and emphasises the need for councils to generate as high quality recyclables as possible in order to produce suitable materials for remanufacture – as close to the point of origin as possible. Further details on these recommendations are available at <http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Municipal%20Sector%20Plan%20Wales%20-%20Collections%20Buleprint.pdf>.
- 3.4 In Northern Ireland, last year WRAP were contracted by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to conduct a Recycling Gap Analysis study of councils' waste collection operations with a view to determining if there were common elements which could be introduced to deliver the 50% recycling target (e.g. providing a separate collection service for food waste). Working with a small working group of senior technical directors and managers, WRAP modelled a number of scenarios at a regional level which, similar to what's been promoted in

Wales, highlighted that a range of opportunities existed for councils to improve their performance based upon amending their approaches to waste collection and practices at their Household Recycling Centres. On a council-by-council basis, this study also drilled into what councils should consider and provided tailored recommendations. Several neighbouring councils are now implementing some of the recommendations relevant to them; which are similar to some of the approaches presented within the draft Waste Framework. Depending upon the results of the consultation exercise, this raises the prospect of collaborative working on waste collection and associated services in years to come.

3.5 Returning to Belfast, the challenge is to achieve a 50% recycling target for household waste while making best use of the resources available. Notwithstanding that the Council outperformed its benchmark class and has been recognised as best practice for implementing the '*Towards Zero Waste*' Action Plan, a paradigm shift is needed if this target is to be delivered. This objective has been further emphasised with the SoLACE, NILGA, DAERA and SIB action plan, approved by the Council in October 2016, to

1. (produce) minimal municipal waste
2. Achieve the 2020 target of recycling 50% of household waste and preparing to contribute to meeting the 65% municipal waste recycling target by 2030
3. Maximum recovery and use of energy from residual waste in NI
4. Sufficient licensed landfill capacity in NI (being) provided

3.6 As mentioned above, the Waste Framework has been drafted after careful consideration of the realistic options facing the Council to create jobs/increase recycling and taking several of the council-specific WRAP recommendations. What has been highlighted is that business as usual will result in a spiral of reducing or stagnant performance, and increasing costs. Change will only be achieved with a fundamental shift in the Council's approach to recycling and service delivery. Where possible, opportunities to realise efficiency gains have been identified as well as to increase income generation, but an investment of financial and other resources will be necessary to achieve the objectives within the Waste Framework, albeit some scenarios have potential for invest-to-save or increased income opportunities. Depending upon the scenario chosen, there may also be DAERA capital funding available to offset some of the costs over the next five years, or so.

- 3.7 To provide independent scrutiny, the Assurance, Governance & Risk Service (AGRS) reviewed the draft and relevant comments have been incorporated into the version appended to this report (available on modern.gov).
- 3.8 It is worth reiterating that the draft Waste Framework envisages that significant change will be needed to collection operations, infrastructure and behaviour change, supported by technology and there may be particular sectors which have potential to assist the Council deliver the 50% target, such as the social sector. In addition to conducting the modelling and analysis, the Service has also used the results from the WRAP Recycling Gap Analysis study for Belfast to check the scenarios developed for the draft Framework – there is a close correlation. The WRAP results for Belfast reinforce that a paradigm shift is needed to improve performance and these conclusions are now informing specific research into a '*Belfast Collections Options*' to meet the legislative requirements for the Council to conduct a Technical, Economic & Environmentally Practicable (TEEP) assessment which is drawing to a close.
- 3.9 Members may recall that last year Waste Management formed a collaborative partnership with WRAP to develop a Circular Economy strategy – '*Resourceful Belfast*'. The objective of this strategy is to move beyond waste and to identify what is needed to increase training opportunities, jobs and sectors in NI which could use the materials collected by better segregated waste; this strategy will shortly be finalised. Recognising that waste collections played a crucial role in this, delivery of the TEEP assessment is being completed as part of this collaborative partnership. Initial findings support the Waste Collection Arrangements in the Waste Framework and the need to focus upon ensuring quality recyclables are collected from householders; the final report will play a fundamental role in any recommendations to be presented to Members alongside the results from the consultation exercise.
- 3.10 Last month, party group briefings were held for Members to outline the steps needed to deliver the changes required, following which relevant amendments were made to the draft document. The draft Framework highlights that considerable effort and a fundamental shift of approach is needed if Belfast is to deliver a household waste recycling rate of 50% and beyond. The briefings also highlighted that the arc21 residual waste treatment contract, whether operational by 2020 or not, would treat and dispose of the same waste as is currently

being managed by the Council – with the same proportion being recovered. So, in terms of contributing to the recycling, this would not make a material difference to the Council's performance. Should arc21 not be realised, the mid/longer-term scenarios for dealing with residual waste are contained within the draft Framework, but these would need further consideration in this eventuality.

- 3.11 If Members are satisfied with this report, the next step will be to prepare the questions for stakeholder consultation on the respective separate elements, and a programme of engagement will be developed to present the scenarios relevant to different audiences. If Members approve this Waste Framework, an '*implementation plan*' will be developed to frame appropriate parts of the document for consultation and/or development (e.g. some proposals, such as the Waste Collection Arrangements should be tested with householders, while other aspects will not affect them). Once key decision points are reached, reports will be presented to Members for consideration, alongside any supplementary evidence provided from other sources, for example, views from WRAP (Cymru) and Zero Waste Scotland on the Waste Framework, the results from the TEEP assessment, consultants reports on Infrastructure and Technology.
- 3.12 In terms of the implementation plan, the obvious starting point is the Waste Collection Arrangements and Behaviour Change actions which householders are likely to experience as the Council strives to improve our opportunity to support job creation. Waste Management will work closely with WRAP, Corporate Communications and any additional communications support to develop a comprehensive consultation approach using appropriate mechanisms, such as a Citizen Space survey on the Council's website, to design information for drop in events, and to engage with appropriate focus groups.
- 3.13 The priority will be on expediting the consultation exercise so that reports on the views and recommendations can be presented to Members for consideration in as timely a manner as possible. This is also likely to be of critical importance to ensure that the Council is in a position to make use of any DAERA funding which may be available. By way of example of the type of questions which are being drafted, these will focus on improvements which the different scenarios offer to service delivery. For example, they may consist of the following:

1. Would you be happy to recycle a wider range of materials for the kerbside?
 2. If recycling services were provide on a weekly basis would you be likely to recycle more? (outer city)
 3. Would you be more likely to recycle food waste if we collected the waste on a weekly basis? (outer city)
 4. Would a weekly glass collection service encourage you to recycle glass? (outer city)
 5. How important to you is using recyclable materials to help create jobs in NI?
 6. Do you think that providing a trolley for you boxes would make it easier for you to recycle?
- 3.14 Waste Management is also currently working with a student anthropologist from Queens University, Belfast to examine attitudes to recycling in a particular part of the city (inner west) which will also contribute findings to the consultation process.
- 3.15 Finally, WRAP have invited stakeholders to a seminar entitled '*Bridging the Recycling Gap*' on 22 June in Templepatrick. This half day seminar will specifically be considering addressing how to transform recycling locally to meet recycling targets while also supplying more materials to support and grow the NI economy – drive development of the Circular Economy. If Members are interested in attending they could either contact the Head of Waste Management on extension 3311, or contact Mr Patterson, Wrap. Further details of this event are appended to this report (available on modern.gov).

HR/Financial/Asset/Equality Implications

- 3.16 There are no HR/financial/equality implications associated with this report however there will be human resource and financial implications associated with implementing the draft Waste Framework both during the consultation stage, and depending upon the decisions taken thereafter.
- 3.17 Further HR/financial/equality implications will need to be identified and included within any future reports as the Waste Framework is considered and implemented.”

A Member stated that she felt the Members should have an input into the drafting of the consultation document. A further Member concurred with these comments and stressed the importance of highlighting the 'Circular Economy', that is, the benefits of recycling in creating and maintaining jobs and how waste and resources management could make a substantive contribution to the Belfast Agenda.

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Following a query from a Member regarding recycling facilities at local schools, the Assistant Director advised that the Head of Waste Management would liaise with the Member directly and provide him with more information on the eco-schools initiative.

A further Member sought assurance that the draft document did not include proposals for the closure of any of the Council's civic amenity sites in the future.

The Assistant Director advised that the Waste Framework Document was a consultation document which was seeking views and opinions in respect of the optimisation of waste to 2025 and beyond. She assured the Committee that reports which would form the outcomes of the consultation process would, in due course, be submitted to future meetings and that any suggestions/proposals regarding the long-term future of any of the Council's facilities would be made at that stage in the process.

The Committee approved the draft "*Waste Agenda Framework*" for consultation later in 2017. It was further agreed that officers would liaise with the Elected Members around the content of the consultation document and that the briefing document would be forwarded to Party Group Leaders in advance of circulation.

Update on Boxing Strategy

The Committee considered a report which detailed a proposal that had been received from the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) and County Antrim Boxing requesting £101,000 in funding per annum for the next 3-4 years.

The Assistant Director reminded the Members that the Council had developed a 10 year amateur boxing strategy for the City in partnership with County Antrim Boxing, the Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) and the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA). The Council had previously committed £200,000 per annum for 3 years for the implementation of phase 1 of the strategy, which had included funding to put in place a Sports Development Officer (appointed in April 2014) and 2 Community Based Coaches. She advised that due to the delay in appointing staff there had been a significant underspend in Year 1 and this had been used to finance the implementation of year 4. The agreed financial support for the implementation of the strategy had come to an end on 31st March, 2017.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th March, it had agreed that 15% of the total Support for Sport Fund for 2017/18 (up to £24,000) would be allocated to support the delivery of the Strategy. The Committee had also agreed to review resources to support the Boxing Strategy and to investigate short-term arrangements for the two Community based coaches for a temporary period of 3 months. The officer advised that one of the coaches had now left the Council and the other's contract had been extended to June, 2017.

The Assistant Director reported that Council officers had been working with the IABA and County Antrim Boxing to try and identify potential funding sources but, to date, these had been limited to small funding streams. The IABA and County Antrim Boxing had developed a proposal requesting £101,000 per annum additional financial support from the Council for the next 3-4 years. The officer advised the Committee that there

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was currently no allocation in the department's budget for this amount and added that the Director of Finance and Resources had further advised that due to the recurrent nature of this funding request it would have to be considered as part of the rate setting process for 2018/19.

A Member outlined the achievements that the sport had delivered throughout the City and welcomed the proposal from the IABA and County Antrim Boxing which would enable the Boxing Strategy to continue.

Another Member stated that, whilst he appreciated the contribution that boxing as a sport made, it was impossible for the Council to continue its support inevitably as there were many other sports not in receipt of Council funding support and which also did excellent work.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was:

Moved by Councillor Garrett; and
Seconded by Councillor Magennis:

That the Committee would support the proposal from the IABA and County Antrim Boxing for £101,000 of funding to continue with the implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy for a further year and that the matter be referred to the June meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for it to determine if the required £101,000 funding could be met from the 2016/17 year end underspend budget.

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

Emergency Planning Service Report

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 emergency planning and civil contingencies matters of interest over the last 14 months and to highlight updated mutual aid arrangements between councils and partner organisations.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the information contained in the report and to agree to the Council engaging in the arrangements set out in the following protocols and Memorandum of Understanding. These arrangements will enable the**

Council to receive and provide support in certain emergency situations.

- District Council Mutual Aid Protocol
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and each district council regarding epizootic diseases
 - Protocol to enable Belfast and the other district councils to use the NI Housing Executive's Emergency Call-Off Contracts
- approve the development of a protocol between the Council and the relevant voluntary and faith organisations to enable the Council to seek assistance (if required) when co-ordinating the recovery aspects from a major emergency.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Emergency Incidents between April 2016 and April 2017

- There was flash flooding on the 12th and again on the 29th June 2016 which caused a significant number of surface water related incidents and internal flooding to a small number of properties, with 4 Belfast residents receiving £1000 payments.
- The number of security alerts when the Council Emergency Planning team was required to respond was fewer than in previous years. The main need for community support centres continued to be at night when residents were most vulnerable. Six centres were made available during the last 14 months.
- A number of significant fires occurred during the year, including one at a waste treatment plant in West Belfast on 30th August 2016 when a major incident was declared by the NI Fire and Rescue Service. The fire continued to burn for a number of days. On 11th January 2017 there was a large fire at a Petrol Station on the Stewartstown Road. This had the potential to be very dangerous with the risk of explosion. Residents were evacuated from six homes and went to stay with friends and family. An Emergency Rest Centre was kept on standby at Sally Gardens Community Centre during the incident.
- A prolonged power outage in west Belfast on 28th August 2016 was significant and at one point consideration was given to evacuating the Syrian Refugee Welcome Centre where a new group of

refugees had just arrived. Emergency Planning made arrangements for the evacuation but NI Electricity Networks were able to provide a generator and restored power to the Centre before this was necessary.

- There were a number of responses to gas related incidents during the year including a suspected gas leak at Mount Collyer on 24th October 2016 which resulted in the evacuation of Currie Primary School. The pupils were evacuated to the Mount Collyer Centre and looked after until collected by parents.
- A mains gas leak at the Old Holywood Road on 12th March 2017 led to residents being evacuated to Avoniel Leisure Centre and provided with shelter and welfare until able to return home.
- In East Belfast on 20th December 2016 there was a carbon monoxide (CO) gas leak caused by an underground cable fire. These types of gas leaks are particularly dangerous as the carbon monoxide can make its way into people's homes through ducts for underground pipes and cables. In this incident one person received an electric shock and another person was treated for gas inhalation.

Training and exercises

3.2 Council staff have been involved in a number of multi-Agency emergency exercises during recent months. These have included:

- A desktop exercise using the facilities in the City Hall Emergency Coordination Centre involving a terrorist attack on a major city centre shopping venue, with simultaneous bomb scares at local visitor attractions. The exercise was attended by various retailers and agencies including the BCC security team and provided excellent learning for all.
- Responding to a water crisis 'Operation Samba' led by NI Water,
- Setting up an Emergency Support Centre for vulnerable people at Whiterock Community Centre,
- Dealing with major industrial accidents led by external consultants Risk & Resilience
- Managing pollution control at Belfast Harbour with the deployment of a boom to contain an oil spill,
- Co-ordinating the response to a building collapse with mass casualties and fatalities,
- Managing coastal flooding at the PSNI Hydra suite (with a camera feed input from the Lord Mayor) and;

- Observation of an animal disease outbreak exercise at DAERA's Local Epizootic Disease Control Centre (LEDCC).

3.3 Individual Property Protection (IPP) Scheme & Flood Re Insurance Scheme

The Rivers Agency Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme was launched in April 2016 and applications have been received from all over N. Ireland. Contractors will be appointed by Rivers Agency during the year 2017/18 to do surveys and carry out installations. There have been 96 applications in total and to date 65 have been approved, 13 of these were in the Belfast area, 7 of which have been approved. Surveys have been completed and they are now awaiting the appointment of a contractor by Rivers Agency to carry out the work. The remaining 6 did not meet the eligibility criteria, mainly because 5 of them are in the Sicily Park / Greystown area where NI Water has drainage improvement schemes planned.

The 'Flood Re' insurance scheme was also launched in April 2016, a joint Government and Insurance industry initiative to enable homeowners who have flooded or are at risk of flooding to avail of affordable home insurance. This was communicated to Belfast residents in the July-August 2016 edition of City Matters along with the handy pull out wallet sized card of emergency contact numbers.

3.4 Community Emergency Plans

Community Emergency Plans continue to enable residents in flood risk areas to prepare for flooding incidents. In Belfast five plans have been established for Sydenham, Braniel, Cregagh, Finaghy and Orchardville areas. Communication and preparedness arrangements with the residents worked well during the heavy rain in June 2016.

In these areas sandbag containers have been provided along with some Flooding road signs, empowering residents to deploy sandbags based on weather warning information and discussion with the Emergency Planning team. Sandbag containers are now well distributed around the city and are regularly checked by the Emergency Planning team for stock and access. Additional equipment such as brushes, shovels, wheelbarrows and first aid kits have also been placed in the main sandbag containers for community use. The information gives details of sandbag container locations, numbers of sandbags and other community

resilience equipment placed in the containers. The emergency planning team will liaise with the Met Office and drainage agencies at times of severe weather to ensure the containers are accessible to communities in flood affected areas. Please note the proposed change of location for the container at Andersonstown Leisure Centre, it is moving to Whiterock Leisure Centre, and the proposed new container at Orchardville Day Centre.

3.5 Flood Risk and Planning

Following on from Rivers Agency presentation to the CG&R Committee in September 2015 there have been five very successful meetings between Rivers Agency and the Council (Planning, Emergency Planning, Property and Projects) and latterly NI Water and DfI. Useful discussions and information sharing has taken place concerning flood risk and implications for the Local Development Plan. This included a presentation by Atkins Consultants on the 'Belfast Tidal Study', detailing recommendations to protect Belfast from tidal flooding.

3.6 Multi-Agency Protocols

Prior to local government reform Belfast City Council had signed a number of protocols and memorandums of understanding to support effective emergency response and recovery arrangements both in Belfast and across the region. These arrangements have recently been reviewed and updated and district councils have been asked to sign the updated protocols. These include a DAERA Epizootic Disease MoU, this was previously held between the Council and DARD and involved the Council potentially providing manpower and equipment to the Department in the event of a major outbreak of a disease such as Foot and Mouth. The MoU is not binding and resources would only be provided on a full cost recovery basis. The second is a District Council Mutual Aid Protocol, which enables councils to assist each other during a major emergency incident; and the third is a protocol to enable the councils to use NI Housing Executive Emergency Call-Off Contracts during major emergencies such as serious flooding incidents. All three documents have been reviewed and approved by Belfast City Council's Legal Services. Members are requested to agree to the Council signing up to these arrangements as they will benefit the people of Belfast during emergency situations.

A range of voluntary and faith organisations such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, the NI 4x4 Response Club and St. John Ambulance provide support in the response to emergencies via agreements with public sector organisations such as the emergency services and local Health & Social Care Trusts. Following the response phase of an emergency the Council often has responsibility for coordinating the multi-agency recovery aspects. However Belfast City Council does not currently have formal protocols in place with voluntary and faith organisations in relation to recovery. Organisations such as Samaritan's Purse, Street Pastors and those mentioned above have expressed a wish to help with this work. We would therefore seek approval from Committee to begin the development of a protocol between the Council and relevant voluntary and faith organisations to assist with recovery following major emergencies.

3.7 Emergency planning in Local Government

A review of civil contingencies arrangements in local government in NI was commissioned by the district councils and was completed late 2015. The report included a number of significant recommendations, particularly around legislation, structures for planning and response, leadership, and financial support for civil contingency arrangements. The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) worked with the Executive Office and DfC regarding implementation of the recommendations and a five year business case for funding the local government sector was agreed with DfC in January 2016. Belfast City Council has submitted a claim to DfC for its allocation of £102K for 2016-2017. Funding for the first quarter of 2017-2018 has now been offered by DfC and a further letter of offer is expected when issues to do with central government budgets have been resolved. On the strength of the agreed business case Belfast City Council agreed, on behalf of the other district councils, to host a regional officer post for local government civil contingencies; this was on the understanding that the full costs of the post and a support officer post would be met by DfC. The recruitment process was recently completed and the regional officer will be appointed in due course.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

The offer from DfC for the first quarters funding for the sub-regional multi-agency planning work for Belfast is

encouraging, as is an undertaking to continue to give this funding priority despite ongoing budgeting issues.

Appointment of the regional officer post will be subject to continued funding by DfC being made available for the post.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

A process is in place to ensure the Council's emergency planning arrangements are screened for equality issues."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Promotion of Organ Donation

The Assistant Director drew the Members' attention to a report which provided an update on the changes to the Human Transplantation Bill for Northern Ireland. She explained that these changes placed new statutory requirements on the Department of Health regarding the promotion of organ donation.

The officer provided the Committee with the following facts and figures relating to organ donation in Northern Ireland:

- at any one time there was approximately 150 people in Northern Ireland awaiting a transplantation and each year approximately 15 people died while waiting for an organ;
- while organ donation was supported by approximately 90% of the population, currently in Northern Ireland only 39% of people had signed the organ donation register; and
- Northern Ireland had the lowest consent rates for donation of any region in the United Kingdom (outside of London).

The Committee noted that low consent rates for donation had been linked to families not knowing the wishes of their loved ones and it was therefore felt that an effective strategy for the promotion of organ donation was required. In attempt to realise this, the Department of Health had identified the need for the Health and Social Care Trusts to work in partnership with local government and the voluntary sector to develop local communication plans to promote organ donation.

The Assistant Director advised that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, which was a statutory partner within the Belfast Agenda, had approached the Council, through the Organ Donation Committee (based at the Royal Victoria Hospital), for support in promoting Organ Donation Week that was being held from Monday, 4th – Sunday, 10th September. This would include the provision of promotional material within existing Council communication platforms, both external and internal, and also within Council facilities and workplaces.

The Committee noted the Council's current support for organ donation and agreed to accede to the Department of Health's request for the Council to work in partnership

with the Health and Social Care Trusts and the voluntary sector to try and promote organ donation more throughout Northern Ireland.

Mental Health and Addiction Support Services

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 bring to the Committee’s attention the Notice of Motion regarding Mental Health and Addiction Support Services considered by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May and to outline a proposed course of action to address the motion.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report
- Consider the arrangements for a strategic discussion event between the Council and its partners in the statutory, community and voluntary sectors. If agreed, this event will take place towards the end of September and the Council will host it in conjunction with Belfast Strategic Partnership.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Notice of Motion regarding Mental Health and Addiction Support Services, moved by Councillor O’Hara and seconded by Councillor McCabe, centred on the need for a city wide response to support communities in dealing with these issues in line with the commitment the Council has given, through the Belfast Agenda, to design and deliver an integrated programme to tackle health inequalities.

3.2 Through the Notice of Motion concern was expressed regarding the availability of joined up services designed to treat the complex issues of addiction, the misuse of drugs and alcohol, self-harm, suicidal tendencies, depression, anxiety and other mental health disorders. The Notice of Motion proposed a review of the level of provision of existing services and a strategic discussion on a more integrated and coordinated approach to delivering addiction and mental health services in Belfast.

- 3.3** At a major three day event held in Belfast last September the link between the misuse of alcohol and drugs and emotional distress and mental disorders was identified as a significant concern for the city. The event, organised by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Strategic Partnership used a 'future search' process to enable key organisations from all sectors across the city to identify the common ground they could commit to in terms of authority and resources to tackle the issue of suicide in Belfast.
- 3.4** There were eleven priorities identified that were considered by all participants to represent the best opportunity for preventing deaths by suicide in Belfast, a copy of the final report is attached at appendix 1, 'Building Hope – Working Together to Prevent Suicide'. One of these areas was a commitment to working better together across mental health, suicide prevention and drugs and alcohol to jointly plan, jointly resource and jointly deliver services that meet the needs of people in a timely and relevant manner. This involved a commitment to resourcing co-morbidity treatment services for people with co-concurring mental health, suicide prevention and drugs and alcohol needs.
- 3.5** A programme of work has been developed for this year to begin the implementation of the recommendations from the Building Hope event. This work is being overseen by the Belfast Protect Life Implementation Group and a number of work-streams are particularly relevant to the issues identified in the Notice of Motion. In particular:
- The design of a new emotional resilience strategy and action plan for Belfast is underway.
 - A project team has been established to design an 'Integrated Crisis Response Service' and 'Street Triage Mental Health Pathway' for the city. It has representatives from the health sector, General Practitioners, PSNI, the NI Ambulance Service, the Belfast Alliance for Suicide Prevention (representing the community and voluntary sectors) and Belfast City Council. This is a significant and complex project that will require joint working between all sectors, creative thinking and collaborative resourcing. Outline proposals have been drafted and issues to do with clinical governance, data management, funding and logistics for pilot services are being considered. Belfast City Council's Safer City Manager is also considering the community safety links with this project.

- There are other pieces of work due to be presented at an event on 27th June. These include the launch of the new Take5 Steps to Emotional Wellbeing Took Kit and the presentation of the findings of the second Have Your Say Belfast Survey, which took place last year and which was completed by over 4934 people in Belfast. The use of the Take5 Tool Kit and the survey findings will be influential in the above mentioned projects and in other work to improve mental health and emotional resilience in the city.

3.6 The report to the August Committee will outline how the formative work mentioned above has progressed and how the strategic discussion event in September could assist in moving it forward in the context of tackling health inequalities under the Belfast Agenda. It will also support discussions on potential gaps and identify what further action is required.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The Council's contribution to this work is being undertaken within existing budgets and there are no additional financial or resource implications at this stage.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Much of this work cuts across communities and sectors and is part of the work to tackle health inequalities and social wellbeing issues in the city.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Playground Improvement Programme 2017 - 2018

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 Members on the successful 2016/17 Playground Improvement Programme and outline plans for playground refurbishments in 2017/18. Members are asked to note that the refurbishments are funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed to for this work, in this financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

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- 2.1 Recommend to Committee the refurbishment of playground sites below under the Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme for financial year 2017/18.**

• Blythefield
• Tullycarnett/Hanwood
• Musgrave Park
• Botanic
• Alexandra Park Upper
• Springhill Park
• Browns Square
• Falls Park
• Knocknagoney
• White Rise
• Areema

3.0 Main report

3.1 Playground Refurbishment Programme

Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme has made a significant impact on overall quality and play value to the city's playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility and play value, providing new inclusive playground equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works. In 2012 the Independent Playground Inspector classified 25% of our playground facilities as being 'poor' (quality score of 3.0 or less). However with continued investment over the last 5 years the Council has achieved the desired improvement in overall safety, quality and play value at each of the sites refurbished under the programme. The playgrounds improved under previous programmes are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit. The 2016/17 Improvement Programme which consisted of four major refurbishments and five minor/partial refurbishments has now been completed, moving their scores to the desired higher standard.

- 3.2 Members should note that this year's cycle of independent inspections has been undertaken again by Play Services Ireland Ltd. The 'quality' score allocated for each playground**

is based on compliance with European safety standards BS EN 1176 & 1177. The inspection reports also continue to identify and prioritise repairs to existing equipment and these repairs are undertaken by either Facilities Management or our own Playground Inspectors.

(Appendix 2 is available on modern.gov – sample copy of the Independent Playground Inspection report 2017) which categorises playgrounds, giving each one a ‘quality score’:

Score 9 – 10	Excellent
Score 8 – 9	Very Good
Score 7 – 8	Good
Score 6 – 7	Fairly Good
Score 5 – 6	Sufficient
Score 4 – 5	Fair
Score 3 – 4	Insufficient
Score 2 – 3	Poor
Score 1 – 2	Very Poor
Score 0 – 1	Extremely Poor

- 3.3 Following the independent inspection assessments of all 97 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed that the sites listed in Table 1 above are refurbished under this year’s Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme.
- 3.4 The playgrounds recommended for refurbishment are the ones with the lowest overall quality scores (Appendix 3 is available on modern.gov – 2017 Mean Quality Score ratings). As a result of the proposed refurbishment works, these playgrounds will move from ‘Fair’ to the higher classifications of ‘Very Good - Excellent’ (quality score 9.0 – 10.0) when reinspected.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that Twinbrook/Brook Activity playground will be rebuilt and moved to a new location close to the existing site as part of the Leisure Transformation programme.
- 3.6 Ardoyne community centre playground whilst list as 6.3 was refurbished after the 2017 Independent inspection visit therefore will score 9/10 in the next inspection report.

Avoniel playground will be closed as a new playground has been constructed in Flora Street Walk way, as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project.

- 3.7 Members are also asked to note that a new playground has recently been constructed at Blacks Road.

Work on a new facility at Poleglass is due to commence in August 2017, which was originally scheduled under the 2016/17 Improvement Programme however works had been delayed until the satisfactory resolution of land transfer.

3.8 Key Issues

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

Refurbishment work at existing Belfast City Council sites will be funded through the Capital Programme and a budget of £580,000 has been allocated to this.

Staff from the Landscape, Planning and Development unit will continue to deliver and project manage the Playground Improvement Programme. As in previous years, Community Park Managers and Outreach officers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to members of the local communities.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The process proposed in this report will be subject to the Council's existing equality screening process."

A Member raised a query in respect of the play equipment at Willowbank Park and the Assistant Director explained the scoring process and undertook to forward the inspection report for this park directly to the Member.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out under section 2.1.

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 provide the Committee with a situation report regarding a request from Crumlin Star FC to the Council to provide them with a 'home ground'.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the ongoing work in relation to the Urban Villages Programme in relation to Marrowbone Millennium Park
2. Note the ongoing discussions relating to the use of the pitch at Cliftonville as an interim measure;
3. Agree that in the context of 1 and 2 above in the absence of investment from the Club at this time that the proposal to develop Strangford Avenue is no longer an option ; and
4. Note the ongoing work in relation to the pitch at Upper Waterworks;

3.0 Main report

The Context

- 3.1 By way of context, Members are asked to note that Council does not directly provide 'home grounds' for sports clubs. There are however 2 ways in which clubs have been able to meet the requirements of the Northern Amateur League to enter into the higher leagues.
- 3.2 Firstly, in the past, as Members will be aware, the Council entered into Facilities Management Agreements and more recently through Partner Agreements with sports clubs and organisations. These agreements have been secured through publicly advertised expressions of interest. Successful applicants have used this process to provide preferential use of pitches for clubs and have through the erection of signage displayed the impression that these facilities are the home of specific clubs. This ability to manage the allocation process has led to a number of clubs being able to demonstrate control of the site in order to satisfy the requirements of the IFA for entry into the higher levels of the Northern Amateur League.
- 3.3 The second way in which clubs have secured use of facilities is by bringing investment to the asset, such as the Ulster Council of the GAA, Clarendon development Association, Suffolk FC etc. Depending on the source of the funding it is usual for terms and conditions to be attached to the funding / investment. Normally one of the requirements will be to have security of tenure, i.e. the funding body will seek to ensure that the funding will be used for the purpose for which it was intended and will seek to ensure that the applicant (recipient of the funding) will secure the benefit of the funding. Therefore sports clubs have sought to secure funding from a variety of sources and have used this to upgrade Council facilities and in return they have sought security of tenure which effectively enables them to secure use of the pitch for

their own use and meet the requirements of the IFA for entry to higher levels of the Northern Amateur League.

Crumlin Star

- 3.4 Crumlin Star has approached the Council seeking preferential use of a number of facilities. In seeking preferential use, the club wishes to satisfy the requirements of the IFA, not to gain entry to the higher leagues but to be able to play their home games within their home city. Crumlin Star First Team currently play their home matches in Larne, although they can use Belfast based facilities for training.
- 3.5 Members are to note that should the Council grant the request to provide preferential use to Crumlin Star it would be inconsistent with the approach to date which has been to do so within the context of:
- Seeking expressions of interest for specified sites; or
 - On foot of investment to improve or upgrade facilities.
- 3.6 This would set a precedent for similar requests and while it is acknowledged that Crumlin Star is a successful team, this would not form a basis for offering preferential use.
- 3.7 At this time Crumlin Star is unable to meet either of these criteria. Officers are currently engaged with 3 other Clubs all of whom are seeking preferential use of pitches and all of whom have been advised that we are not in a position to meet the requests for the above reasons.
- 3.8 In relation to Crumlin Star Council Officers are currently exploring 4 possible options which would enable the Club to play its home matches in Belfast.
1. Marrowbone Millennium Park
 2. Use of the pitch at Upper Waterworks (adjacent to Westland Gardens);
 3. Cliftonville Playing Fields and
 4. Strangford Avenue Playing Fields.

Marrowbone Millennium Park – Urban villages Programme

- 3.9 Members will be aware that the Council in partnership with Sport NI and the former Department for Social Development funded the development of a 3G pitch at Marrowbone. Members may also recall that the former Parks and Leisure Committee had agreed to relocate the 2 room temporary

changing pavilion from Cliftonville Playing Fields to Marrowbone. Crumlin Star do use the facilities but they do not meet the ground criteria to permit the Club to use the facilities for competitive matches.

- 3.10 Council has agreed to act as the delivery agent for the Urban Villages Programme. This programme has designated a number of areas across the city as Urban Villages and on foot of this designation these areas will be eligible for capital and revenue support to regenerate them and encourage shared use. One of the locations is Ardoyne and within this context Marrowbone Millennium Park. It is proposed that this small linear park receives funding and discussions to date have highlighted the importance of the pitch for sports clubs in the area. While still subject to consultation, one of the options being presented is to include a pitch extension and a new modern changing pavilion to support the 3G pitch. This pitch will be targeted at soccer clubs, owing to site constraints and this option would provide a permanent solution for clubs such as Crumlin Star, who are based in North Belfast.
- 3.11 This development is likely to mean that the pitch will be unavailable for use for approximately 2 playing seasons to allow for consultation, due diligence on the part of the funder; design, planning consent, the tender process and the physical works. Therefore consideration has been given to alternative interim arrangements that can as a priority provide for the first team's league fixture needs in their local area and further consider how we address the displacement of other teams who currently use this site.

Upper Waterworks

- 3.12 Members are reminded that this has been discussed at Committee on a number of occasions and that a mediation process is currently in progress to seek a resolution to the issue of use. A separate report will be brought to Committee upon completion of the mediation process.

Strangford Avenue Playing Fields

- 3.12 Members will recall that this request was first considered by the Committee at its meeting in October 2016 and has been discussed at subsequent meetings.
- 3.13 To summarise, Crumlin Star FC is seeking preferential use of Pitch 3 and the adjacent changing pavilion which would be in line with a sports development plan. The Club further requested that the Council investigate the possibility of

bringing Pitch 3 and the associated pavilion up to Intermediate League Standard which would enable the Club to play its home games at Strangford Avenue. The Club further proposed that the Council will remain responsible for the maintenance of the pitch and that they would pay for use of the facility.

3.15 There are a number of issues associated with this proposal:

The Council has not offered this facility to other clubs who may be interested in securing a 'home ground';

The Club has not sought to improve or upgrade the facility through securing funding which would require security of tenure to be afforded to the Club;

3.16 In addition:

1. The pitch is already well used and should the Council agree to the proposal it would be necessary to displace existing users and find alternative facilities;
2. The facility is well used by local residents and the erection of a fence measuring approximately 100m long by 64m wide (to allow circulation space for spectators) in the middle of the facility would restrict usage; Members will also be aware of recent press coverage (South Belfast News and Belfast Telegraph) outlining local opposition to the proposal; it would be necessary to consult with other park users regarding the proposal;
3. Planning consent would be required in relation to the erection of the fencing;
4. The IFA is currently reviewing the ground criteria which governs entry to the higher leagues within the Northern Amateur League;
5. The cost of the work would be in the region of £50,000 based on estimate from the Fencing MTC; the small works and civil engineering MTC and the provider of dug outs.

3.17 Following the meeting in October 2016 Council Officers met with representatives from the IFA to review the suitability of the facilities. A number of requirements were identified including the dug outs and the fencing; a space for spectators to circulate is required and council would be required to make reasonable provision for those with a disability by providing at least one of the pitch with a bitmac path to facilitate access.

- 3.18 A further report was considered at the January meeting, this report recommended that consideration be deferred until the IFA had completed its review of the grounds criteria. The IFA has been invited to attend a future meeting of the committee but to date no response has been received.
- 3.19 A further report in March 2017 provided a breakdown of the costs.

Cliftonville Playing Fields

- 3.20 Members will be aware that the council has recently completed a major development at Cliftonville Playing Fields by providing a 3G artificial turf pitch and associated floodlighting and changing. This site is one of 4 which received some additional funding from the Ulster council of the GAA. On foot of that £1m investment across 4 site, the Council has agreed to a preferential use agreement with the Ulster council. This agreement essentially enables the Ulster council, in consultation with its constituent Clubs to book the facility in line with an annual programme of use. Where the facility is not booked as part of the programme it is available for use by other users. While the pitch is currently used primarily by GAA clubs, it is not exclusively for use of GAA clubs.
- 3.21 Council Officers have met with representatives from the IFA Grounds Criteria team and the facility would require some minor physical works to the facility including dug outs and a barrier to segregate players and officials from spectators. The cost of this would be in the region of £10,000 which can be accommodated within existing maintenance budgets.
- 3.22 Members will be aware that there is an existing legal agreement with the Ulster Council GAA which provides them with preferential use of the facility via a sports development programme. Initial discussions with the Clubs delivering the programme have provided agreement in principle to use by Crumlin Star and discussions are continuing regarding the detail of implementation around the programming.
- 3.23 If agreement can be reached it will be necessary to submit a formal proposal to the IFA for approval. Officers have agreed to provide if required a letter to the IFA to seek additional time to conclude the discussions.
- 3.24 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There no financial implications at this time.

3.25 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There has been no equality impact.”

Several Members highlighted the valuable work of Crumlin Star Football within its local community and also its success as a team and stated that they felt that it would be premature, at this stage in the process, to rule out Strangford Avenue Playing Fields as a viable option for Crumlin Star.

Other Members advised that they had been contacted by a significant number of local residents stating their opposition to the proposal on the grounds of the increased traffic and disruption that they felt a ‘home pitch’ would create and stated that if the suggestion was ever to reach consultation stage there was likely to be huge local opposition.

Following a query from a Member regarding the lack of input from the Irish Football Association (IFA), the Democratic Services Officer advised that the IFA had, on two occasions, been invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee and they had yet to acknowledge the invite. The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that he had, at a recent meeting, raised this matter with representatives from the IFA and he was hopeful that a meeting would be agreed and scheduled in the near future.

Following a further query regarding the investment that had recently been agreed for Clarendon Playing Fields, the Assistant Director reiterated that this mini pitch investment had been progressing through the capital programme since 2014 and she also highlighted that the Clarendon Development Association had undertaken significant maintenance and investment in order to bring the facility up to Intermediate Standard.

A Member advised that the Council owned a significant number of football pitches and stated that, whilst he acknowledged that Crumlin Star was a successful team, it would not be appropriate for the Council to grant them a request for preferential use as it would set a precedent for similar requests from other football clubs. He requested that a list of the Council owned pitches, for information purposes, be submitted to a future meeting.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was:

Moved by Councillor Lyons; and
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers:

That the Committee agrees to accept the recommendations contained within the report.

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

Partner Agreement Update - Quarterly Update

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven playing field sites and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for January - March 2017.

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and she advised that so far the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites. She drew the Members' attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by the partners up to the end of March 2017 and highlighted that, in the initial year of transition from the Facility Management Agreements, there was evidence of growth in the level of diverse use and extensive partnership working.

The Assistant Director advised that Full Quarter 4 payments and 80% of quarter 1 2017-18 payments had been made at 6 of the 7 sites. Payment of the final 20% of the Quarter 4 and 80% for Quarter 1 2017-18 had not been made to the partner at the Alderman Thomas Patton Memorial Park as the club had raised queries in respect of bills for pitch usage, which needed to be resolved prior to payment.

A Member asked that the staff be thanked for their hard work and commitment in helping to address ongoing issues at some of the locations.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Milltown Land Licence Agreement

The Assistant Director outlined the details of a request from the City and Neighbourhood Services Department seeking permission to obtain a licence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to build a community garden at Alnacreeva Close, Milltown.

The officer advised that the need for a community garden had been demonstrated through a recent community survey carried out by residents as part of the locality planning process for the area. The Committee noted that it was proposed that the community garden would have 17 raised beds which would be made available for communal use. In addition, officers would assist and support the Milltown Residents Association in submitting an Alpha funding application to cover the cost of building the garden and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department would also support the community with training to develop and sustain the community garden.

The Committee was advised that the cost of the community garden would be £31,400.00, 10% of which would be covered through existing departmental budgets with the remainder being sought from Alpha Funding by the Community Association.

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The Committee:

- agreed that it would request a licence from the NIHE to build a community garden at Altnacreeva Close, Milltown; and
- approved the construction of a community garden at this location.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting - Quarter 4 2016/17

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services presented the financial position of the People and Communities Committee for Quarter 4, which confirmed an under spend of £694k for that period. This represented 0.9% of the budget which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee was advised that the current under spends related to vacant posts across a number of services and the receipt of additional income from grants and growth.

He reminded the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had, at its meeting held on 18th November, 2016, agreed to cap in year departmental cash limits at the Quarter 2 forecast levels to offset the rates clawback advised by the Land and Property Services Agency and the Committee was therefore not in a position to re-allocate any of the departmental underspend.

A Member congratulated officers on the achieved underspend and the Committee noted the year-end financial position.

Everybody Active 2020

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To seek permission to accept an offer of funding from Sport NI’s investment programme called Everybody Active 2020. An indicative amount of approximately £125,000 has been suggested for Strand 4. This will allow Council to offer small grants in Belfast to support the existing Everybody Active participation programme currently being delivered by our range of preferred partners.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to accept the financial offer and permit officers to develop and run a programme of small grants in support of the Everybody Active 2020 Strand 4 programme to 31 March**

2020, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Sport NI programme

Sport NI has commissioned Belfast City Council, along with the other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Every Body Active 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. Specific targets for each of the Strands of the Programme will be confirmed by Sport NI.

3.2 Sport NI have recently indicated that they will offer Belfast City Council around £125,000 under Everybody Active 2020 Strand 4 – small grants programme. This programme will allow Council to enhance the sustainability of participation alongside the existing Everybody Active Opportunities Programme which has been developed to support the objectives of the Belfast Agenda. Our existing Everybody Active 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. We have commissioned a blend of providers through a public process who are successfully developing and delivering programmes which prioritise participation for our target groups.

3.3 Design of Belfast's Strand 4 programme will ensure complementary benefits linked to other investments including Belfast City Council's existing Support for Sport small grants, EBA 2020 Strand 2 Workforce Development and Peace IV to improve the outcomes from EBA 2020. It is envisaged that the scheme will prioritise support to groups which can deliver programmes in support of our prioritised Everybody Active 2020 programmes as listed below.

<u>Partner Organisation</u>	<u>Main Target Group</u>
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

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

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

Sport NI has indicated that it will make a confirmed offer in the near future and that an approximate budget of £125,000 per financial year will be available for delivery of EBA 2020 strand 4 in Belfast. Sport NI have indicated that an amount totalling 10% of the total costs will be available to support delivering the programme. It is proposed that a temporary part-time Sports Development assistant role would be created in support of existing Sports Development resources to ensure the successful delivery.

3.5 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 provider.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Financial Provision Assurance statement to NIEA for Waste Management Activities in Northern Ireland

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

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To highlight the NIEA *Financial Provision Policy for Waste Management Activities in Northern Ireland*.

1.02 To ensure that Belfast City Council has sufficient, secure and available resources to address the environmental and human health impacts of its waste management activities at the following sites:

- Agnes Street Civic Amenity Site
- Alexandra Park Household Recycling Centre
- Blackstaff Household Recycling Centre
- Cregagh Road Civic Amenity Site
- Dargan Road Waste Transfer Station
- Palmerston Household Recycling Centre
- Park Road Household Recycling Centre
- Springfield Civic Amenity Sites

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Provide assurance to the NIEA that the Council has sufficient funds available to address any potential environmental or human health impacts arising from its waste management activities.
- Proceed with preparing a Local Authority Deed Agreement to cover an aggregated financial provision of £195,000 for any potential impacts arising from our waste management activities. The Financial Provision Calculations for Belfast City Council Waste Sites is available on modern.gov.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The aim of the (NIEA) Financial Provision Policy is to ensure that holders of licences and permits in Northern Ireland have sufficient, secure and available resources to address the environmental and human health impacts of their waste activities.

3.2 Financial provision for non-landfill activities is required under the Waste and Contaminated Land Order (NI) 1997 and the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (NI) 2013. Activities covered include waste

treatment and transfer sites subject to waste management licensing and waste treatment sites regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations.

- 3.3 The amount of financial provision is based on the maximum permitted quantity of waste that, an operator can store on the site at any one time, under the terms of their licence / permit.
- 3.4 Non landfill activities must apply a simple indicative formula based on the appropriate management of waste tonnages and restoration/remediation costs, to calculate the amount of financial provision.
- 3.5 Operators are required to determine the financial provision amount for each site. Sites which have a financial provision of £10,000 or more, will be deemed to be higher risk.
- 3.6 Based on the NIEA recommendations, the four Household Recycling Centres and the Waste Transfer Station are deemed to be higher risk sites than the three Civic Amenity Sites.
- 3.7 NIEA require waste operators to review and submit their financial provision at least annually. Where an operator applies to modify or vary a licence, financial provision must be reassessed (and agreed by the NIEA) by the applicant at that time.
- 3.8 To demonstrate financial standing, NIEA require evidence from waste operators that they have sufficient funds available. Depending on the financial provision determined, one of a number of options can be provided – for example for lower risk sites, this could be a credit reference check, a statement of accounts or a Parent Company Guarantee. For higher risk sites, this could be Bonds or Escrows.
- 3.9 For public sector sites, evidence may be provided by showing that the costs of operation and, if required, financial provision amount, will be funded out of a named, dedicated budget, indicating the allocation of funds. A Local Authority Deed Agreement may be considered where a local authority is: carrying out its own waste activities; can substantiate the financial provision to be appropriate and; that the monies are readily accessible.
- 3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Based on the NIEA indicative formula, the aggregated financial provision for the Council's waste sites (covering 4 household recycling centres, 3 civic amenity sites and the

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waste transfer station at Dargan) amounts to approximately £195,000. This sum has been included within the relevant budget. On a site-by-site basis, the £195,000 can be broken down as follows:

Waste Management Site	Financial Provision
Agnes Street Civic Amenity Site	£4,555
Alexandra Park Household Recycling Centre	£14,550
Blackstaff Household Recycling Centre	£14,450
Cregagh Road Civic Amenity Site	£6,311
Dargan Road Waste Transfer Station	£121,772
Palmerston Household Recycling Centre	£14,509
Park Road Household Recycling Centre	£14,450
Springfield Civic Amenity Sites	£4,170
Total	£194,767

Table 1: Summary of Financial Provisions for Council Waste Management Sites.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Service Level Agreement – Drinking Water Inspectorate for NI and Belfast City Council (Private Water Supplies)

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that in Northern Ireland drinking water supplies were either provided through the public water supply or via private supplies. Northern Ireland Water Ltd (NI Water) supplied water to over 99% of the Northern Ireland population, with the remainder being served by private water supplies.

The Committee was advised that the quality of drinking water at private water supplies in Northern Ireland was monitored under the Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended). It was noted that the statutory body responsible for the monitoring and enforcement regimes under these regulations was the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). The DWI was a business unit within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), part of the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs.

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The officer advised that in implementing the requirements under the regulations the Inspectorate had to work closely with the Environment Health Departments, which carried out sampling at private water supplies, and also liaise with owners/users of these supplies during the investigation of exceedances of water quality standards.

The Committee noted that the Inspectorate had an arrangement with the Environmental Health Service to undertake sampling at private water supplies on its behalf. This agreement outlined the arrangements between the DWI and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department for Belfast City Council, appointed as a competent person, for the purposes of undertaking on behalf of the DWI risk assessments and sampling of water supplies under the Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended). The officer explained that the Service Level Agreement defined each party's role, responsibilities and obligations and that it would also enable the DWI to individually authorise the Council to carry out duties on its behalf. This agreement would be for a period of 2 years and then bi-annually, subject to a review process.

The Committee endorsed the draft Service Level Agreement, available on the Council's website [here](#), and authorised the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to sign the agreement on the Council's behalf.

Operational Issues

Donation - Installation of Defibrillators

The Committee was reminded that the Council had been undertaking a public access defibrillator pilot programme. It noted that, as part of the programme, defibrillators had already been installed in six Parks in May 2016. In addition, the Committee, at its meeting on 7th February, had agreed to a second phase of installation across a further nine sites.

The Assistant Director advised that the Council had recently received a request from the family of the late Mr. Mark Murphy, seeking permission to make a donation of money raised in his memory to be used for the installation of defibrillators in public accessed playing fields and parks. The officer advised that they wished to donate £5,408.00 which would cover the cost of eight defibrillators. The officer detailed that the Murphy family had requested that, if possible, that one of the defibrillators would be installed in the Cherryvale Playing Fields as it was located close to the family home and was used extensively by many of the people who had supported the fundraising efforts. In addition, the family had also indicated that they would be pleased if the other defibrillators could be geographically spread over the City. The officer advised that they had suggested the Ormeau Park as a possible location. Whilst they recognised that there was one already located at the Ozone, they felt that given the size and usage of the park that it would be beneficial if another could be located near the Park Road/Ormeau Road junction. The Committee noted that the family had also mentioned that, as they were originally from the North Road area in East Belfast, they would appreciate if a defibrillator was to be located in that general area but had stressed that they were content to be guided by the Council as to where the need was greatest.

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The Committee noted that it was a significant achievement for the family to raise this sum of money and welcomed the fact that this would enable the Council to proceed to the third phase of this pilot programme. During discussion the Assistant Director confirmed that a plaque would be erected at the location of the defibrillator. Several Members stated that they felt it would be appropriate to acknowledge the generous donation by inviting family representatives to a small reception, in addition, they agreed with the family's views that the other locations should be geographically spread across the City.

The Committee:

- gratefully accepted a donation of £5,408.00 for the installation of eight defibrillators in public accessed playing fields and parks and agreed that one of them would be located in Cherryvale Playing Fields;
- agreed to accede to the family's other location suggestions, if officers felt that these would make suitable locations; and
- agreed that the Chairperson would invite representatives from the family to a small reception, which would be held immediately prior to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee, and to which all Members of the Committee would be invited.

Sharp Finds - Update Report

The Committee noted that there was increasing concern about the inappropriate disposal of sharps and drug paraphernalia associated with intravenous drug use in the City. Obviously this was exacerbated when such items were found in public spaces.

The Members were advised that the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) had been leading on a partnership response which was aimed at dealing with the inappropriate disposal of such material. She explained that it led a multiagency Sharp Management Group which was comprised of experts from various support services across the City, along with representatives from other statutory agencies. This group had agreed a range of short and medium term actions which were aimed at raising awareness around the issues. The officer then detailed the actions, as follows:

- training and awareness for local businesses in the event of finding sharps;
- sharps removal contract – a dedicated telephone number for members of the public to report the discovery of drug related sharps;
- sharps disposal units – specifically designed sharps disposal units had been placed in the Automatic Public Conveniences (APCs): Dublin Road; Lombard Street; Antrim Road, Custom House Square and the Gas Works. It was noted further that the Council had also installed a unit at the Council owned Winetavern and were investigating other opportunities to expand the scheme;
- guidance for Council employees;
- accurate recording of data; and
- enabling Council staff – all Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Park Wardens carry sharp bins in the Council vehicles.

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The Committee noted that the future work for the Sharp Management Group included raising awareness of the problem, the accurate recording and timeliness of sharing reports and information across the agencies to enable resources to be targeted quicker and work with the hostels in Belfast to enable them to better support vulnerable people in their care around drug use and the safe disposal of injecting equipment.

The Committee welcomed the update report and agreed to further support the current and planned work of the multi-agency Sharps Management Group.

Update on Changing Places Facilities

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

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th April, it had requested further information in respect of the provision of Changing Places in the City. By way of background information, the Head of Waste Management detailed that Changing Places were facilities provided where people with multiple disabilities could avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities which had been designed specifically for their needs.

He then proceeded to outline the current provision of the facilities throughout the City, as follows:

- Girdwood Community Hub (North Belfast);
- George Best Belfast City Airport (East Belfast);
- Mencap Centre (Newtownbreda – South Belfast);
- Northern Ireland Assembly (East Belfast);
- Divis and Black Mountain (West Belfast); and
- Olympia Leisure Centre (South Belfast).

The officer advised that the Changing Places Toilet Map was available on the internet [here](#), which contained further information in respect of the above facilities.

He reported that there were proposals to install 2 additional facilities at the redeveloped Robinson and Andersonstown Leisure Centres.

Following a query from a Member regarding the provision of facilities within the City Hall, the Assistant Director confirmed that there was a proposal to consider a Changing Places Facility within the building. The proposal was currently an uncommitted project of the Council's Capital Projects process. She stated that, as the City Hall was a listed building, the proposal was obviously more complex, and in addition to this, there was also the problem of limited space.

Several of the Members highlighted the inadequate Changing Places facilities provided within the City Centre where people with multiple disabilities could avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities which had been designed specifically for their needs. It was noted that it was an issue that needed to be addressed urgently given the numbers of people visiting the City.

The Committee noted the report.

Food Service Delivery Plan 2017 - 18

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the principal aspects of the Food Service Delivery Plan for 2017-2018, which set out the activities, techniques and approaches to be taken during the year to support businesses in ensuring food safety and to promote informed healthy choices. He explained that the Plan provided the basis on which the Council's regulatory activities would be monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency.

The Members noted that, from October this year, the Food Hygiene Rating Act (NI) 2016 would require businesses to display their food hygiene rating.

The Committee approved the Food Service Delivery Plan 2017-2018, a copy of which was available on the internet [here](#).

Update Report on the Anti - Litter Campaign

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Service provided the Committee with a brief update in respect of the evaluation of the anti-litter awareness campaign. He reminded the Committee that the campaign had been developed as part of the Brighter Belfast Initiative and had been ongoing since 2004.

The Director reported that the most recent research in February 2017, had found a considerable positive change to people's littering behaviour, with 27% of people admitting to having littered in the past 6 months, which showed a 15% point improvement in behaviour since the last survey 2 years ago, when 42% of people had admitted to littering. He continued that overall reported littering in Belfast City was at its lowest level since the inception of the campaign and with behavioural change being notoriously difficult to achieve this was very encouraging.

He proceeded to detail to the Committee other key findings of the research and stated that it was important that the Council continued to build on the success and momentum that had been established with both the campaign and education and outreach programmes to sustain the change in behaviour

The Committee noted the report.

Belfast Model Flying Club - Blanchflower

The Committee was advised that the application by the Belfast Air Model Club to host the 2019 European Championships for Control Line Model Aircraft, at the Blanchflower Park, had been unsuccessful and the event would be held in Gran Canaria.

Noted.

Pride of Place Awards 2017

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the purpose of the Pride of Place competition, which recognised and celebrated community partnerships' contribution to society. The Council had supported the competition for the past seven years and entry was by Council nomination.

He explained that the Council's Community Service Officers had taken the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups and had proposed the following nominations for the 2017 Pride of Place competition:-

- Lower Oldpark Community Association (in the under 1,000 population category);
- The Hanwood Trust Company Limited (in the over 2,000 category);
- College Park Avenue Residents Association (in the Community Environmental Initiative);
- Upper Springfield Youth Team (in the Community Based Youth Initiative).

Accordingly, the Committee approved:

- the entry and associated costs of the four proposed groups to the Pride of Place Awards 2017, taking place in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 2nd December;
- the accommodation allowance for the Judges' Assessment Visit to Belfast in August; and
- the attendance of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services (or their nominees) and the Project Officer, together with a maximum of two persons per external project, at the awards ceremony and approved the associated costs.

Glasgow International Rose Trials

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, together with the Assistant Director (or their nominees), to attend the following event:

- the Glasgow Rose Trials on 24th – 25th August.

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's Annual Learning Convention and Exhibition (ICCM)

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, together with the Assistant Director (or their nominees), to attend:

- the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Learning Convention and Exhibition, in Oxfordshire, from 25th – 27th September;
- It was agreed further, given its portfolio of work, that the Members of the Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group would also be authorised to attend.

**Consultation on Draft Revised UK Air Quality Plan
for Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 On 20th February 2014, the European Commission launched legal proceedings against the UK for its failure to meet Limit Values for NO₂. Although the original deadline for meeting the limit values was 1st January 2010, extensions were agreed with Member States, which had a credible and workable plan for meeting air quality standards within five years of the original deadline, i.e. by January 2015. The 2015 Plan was withdrawn after it was deemed too optimistic in its modelling of future nitrogen dioxide emissions by the High Court following a challenge by ClientEarth. The UK High Court Judge ruled that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England (Defra) had taken ‘minimum’ steps to achieve compliance with EU-set limits on NO₂ by 2020.

1.2 The UK has now completed a draft revised air quality plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide to be submitted to the European Commission. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England, the Department for Transport, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland have written to relevant organisations inviting their views on the draft document. This consultation seeks views on the key elements from this plan and the UK’s approach for meeting NO₂ limit values.

1.3 The consultation on the draft document closes on 15th June 2017 and the Government are seeking to publish the final plan by July 2017. A copy of the consultation documentation can be accessed via <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/air-quality-plan-for-tackling-nitrogen-dioxide>

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- endorse the draft response and note that the deadline for receipt of this consultation by Defra is 15 June 2017. Accordingly, it is proposed to submit this response to Defra subject to council approval at its meeting on 3 July 2017.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 The Draft UK Plan acknowledges that the problem of NO₂ is specific to local areas and that key actions need to be developed and implemented locally. The UK Government will also take steps at national level to enable and support local progress. Specific to Northern Ireland, it is proposed that the NI Executive will improve air quality and increase sustainable transport through the following measures:

- Revising Northern Ireland's air quality policy and legislation;
- Devise an Air Quality Action Plan with a range of actions.

3.2 The Council's draft consultation response includes the following main points to be considered for Northern Ireland and Belfast.

- We would recommend that Northern Ireland specific Air Quality Strategy (update to air quality policy and legislation) and Action Plan documents are developed and brought forward as soon as practicable by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Full engagement with councils and other relevant organisations should be sought throughout the process.
- Future documents should have a clear focus on both regional and local issues.
- From 2015, the Department has imposed cuts on councils to the overall budget allocated to air quality management. The draft response highlights the need to ensure funding allocated to councils remains sufficient to allow them to plan for and carry out all current and future legislative duties placed upon them.
- The response places an emphasis on the need for continuation of good quality monitoring data rather than relying solely upon modelling for predictions. Monitoring confirms actual ambient concentrations allowing measures to be prioritised and to have quantifiable direct air quality benefits.
- We recommend that any future Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy should consider not only actions to meet legal limits but also the link between air quality improvements and long term wider benefits to human health and the Public Health Service. While legal limits (EU Limits and UK Objectives) are in place to protect human health, continued reductions in background

concentrations of air quality should be an important target for any future strategy. A Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy should consider not only actions to meet legal limits, but also include assessment and quantification of how wider air quality improvements can benefit public health. This should include research in the relationship between air quality and public health, to establish if a reduction in air pollution will have long-term health benefits and potential savings to the Northern Ireland Health Service.

3.3 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial implications to the Council associated with delivery of the UK Air Quality Plan. Resource implications may be incurred by officer time supporting the Department with development of the NI actions. Provisions are accounted for within existing budget estimates relative to staff time.

3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the delivery of the Plan.”

The Committee endorsed the Council’s response, available on the Council’s website [here](#), to the DEFRA draft revised UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide. It was noted that the consultation closed on 16th June and it was agreed that the response would be submitted with the proviso that it would be subject to ratification by the Council.

Request for the use of Dundonald Cemetery

The Assistant Director reported that a request had been received from the Dundonald Apprentice Boys of Derry seeking permission to use Dundonald Cemetery to conduct a wreath laying ceremony on 29th June from 7.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request.

Street Naming

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Emma Court, off Albert Street, BT12.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 14th June, 2017

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen McGimpsey, L. Patterson and Spence; and
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian,
Dudgeon, Graham, Hargey, Howard, Johnston,
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
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st June.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Dorrian, Johnston, Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown and Mullan declared an interest in Item 2b, in that they were Members of the Planning Committee, and Councillor Boyle declared an interest in the same item in that he was a Member of the Markets Development Association. Upon receiving advice from the City Solicitor, the above mentioned eight Members left the room for the duration of the discussion on the item.

Councillor McDonough-Brown also declared an interest in Item 9d, namely, strengthening the Cultural Sector: Proposed 'Resilience Building' Investment Programme, in that his mother was an employee of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and did not take part in the discussion.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

**Response from Permanent Secretary, Department for
Infrastructure re: Use of Bus Lanes by Taxis**

The Committee considered correspondence which had been received from the Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure, in response to the Committee's letter of support of a six month extension to the trial of taxis using Belfast Rapid Transit bus lanes in the City Centre, which also requested that all bus lanes be included in the extension.

The response outlined that the Department had received a range of representations and that there were competing views on the matter. The Committee was advised that, as the twelve week trial had been determined by the former Minister for Infrastructure, following discussions he had had with representatives from both the taxi industry and the cycling lobby, the trial had ended as planned, on Sunday, 14th May, 2017.

The Permanent Secretary outlined in his response that the Department was currently carrying out working to inform decisions on future taxi access to bus lanes and that the Department would take into consideration analysis of traffic data gathered during the trial and collation of information received from its online survey and other related correspondence which had been received since the start of the trial. He confirmed that the Department would take into account the view as set out by the Council.

The Committee noted the response from the Permanent Secretary.

Presentations

Area Learning Community – West Belfast

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Ms. A. Mervyn, West Belfast Area Learning Community, Ms. K. O'Hare, Hazelwood Integrated College, and Mr. A. Logan, Belfast Boys Model School, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

Ms. Mervyn provided the Committee with an overview of the Learning Education Programme which had been implemented by the West Belfast Partnership Board (WBPB) to promote a partnership between schools and the community to improve outcomes for the young people in the area.

She explained that education was the number one priority for the Board and explained the importance of the structural development of robust partnerships and the Strategic Education Plan for the area. She outlined to the Committee that, since the Learning Education Programme had been established within West Belfast, the percentage of pupils in the west of the city which had achieved 5 or more GCSEs, Grade A*-C, had increased by 17.3% between 2011 and 2016, which had meant that it was now 0.2% above the average for the whole of Northern Ireland.

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She outlined to the Committee that Easter Schools were run by the Partnership and that the Aisling Bursaries scheme, which was sponsored by local businesses and individuals, had donated a total of £574,500 to 671 students since its inception in the year 2000.

The Committee was advised that the EastSide Partnership, in the east of the City, had recently implemented EastSide Learning, which was based on the success of the WBPB's Learning Education Programme model and was seeing positive results.

Ms. O'Hare explained that Hazelwood Integrated College was located in the north of the City and currently had 939 pupils. She pointed out that 19% of pupils had Special Educational Needs and 58% of pupils were entitled to free school meals. The Committee was advised that, while the college had improved greatly over the past few years, a lot more had to be done in order to effectively tackle social deprivation. Ms. O'Hare outlined a number of innovative approaches which the school had taken, including a Pathways Curriculum, collaboration with Northern Regional College and Belfast Met, engagement with the Greater Shankill Partnership, mentoring programmes, home visits, work placements and a successful internship programme with large companies including Deloitte, Danske Bank and the Clayton Hotel group.

Mr. Logan outlined to the Committee that the Belfast Boys Model School in North Belfast was a non-selective boys school with approximately 1000 pupils, 60% of whom were entitled to free school meals.

He advised the Members of how, over the last three years, the school's performance in GCSE English and Mathematics at Grades A* - C had been above the Northern Ireland average for similar non-selective schools.

During discussion, a Member raised the issue of lower educational attainment by protestant males. Ms. O'Hare outlined that, while their grades generally remained lower than their counterparts, there were a number of champions who were seeking to change that and pointed out that the top achieving male from Hazelwood Integrated for the past two years had been a protestant male.

A Member stated that it was enlightening to hear about the best practice model from the West Belfast Partnership and the number of ways in which other areas of the city had been able to share the successes of the approach.

In response to a suggestion from a Member, the Committee agreed that a paper be submitted to a future meeting regarding how the gap in North Belfast be filled, given that it no longer had a Partnership Board for the area.

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

Belfast Business Investment Advice Service Update

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. A. Webb, Webb Consulting, and Mr. M. O'Connell, OCO Global were in attendance in connection with this item and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth. The scale of Belfast's ambition is set out in the draft Belfast Agenda which aims to grow the city's population by an additional 70,000 people and for the city's economy to support 50,000 more jobs by 2035. To focus our efforts on growing the Belfast economy, a number of ambitious and challenging targets have been set for 2021:

- **Creating 15,000 new jobs**
- **Attracting £1 billion of private sector Foreign Direct Investment**
- **Supporting 4,000 small business start-ups**

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.

1.3 Members have emphasised the importance of continuing to attract and support investment and FDI to Belfast as well as committing to a step change in a comprehensive support for small businesses to start and grow. Consequently, at its meeting in November 2016, Committee agreed that professional expertise would be secured to develop a menu of city support & incentives and to scope the establishment of a Belfast Investor Advice/Concierge Service.

1.4 Combined with the changing global economic context, this provides an opportunity to take a more holistic approach to further consider the establishment of an economic delivery vehicle similar to the Belfast Investment Development Agency (as per the Notice of Motion raised in January 2014) and a number of the practical items raised in the Notice of Motion to support micro and small businesses in the city to help strengthen and progress the Council's city leadership role (as per the Notice of Motion raised in July 2016).

1.5 The purpose of this report is to enable the appointed contractor (OCO Global/Webb Advisory) to present their findings to date, together with some initial outline options for such a service in Belfast, for the Committee to consider. The Committee's views are sought on the thinking to date to enable the development of more detailed and robust proposals which will be brought back to Committee in September 2017 for further consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the findings to date
- Consider the issues raised and provide comment on the options and priorities which will inform the recommendations and way forward.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The City has already developed a successful track-record in attracting FDI and specialisms are emerging in the fields of Financial Technology, Financial & Legal Services, Creative & Digital Industries, Cyber Security, Green Tech and Life & Health Sciences. The attractiveness of Belfast as a business investment destination is evidenced through accolades such as:

- Number 1 destination for financial technology investments.
- Europe's leading destination for new software development projects.
- Named as the most Business Friendly City of its size for the second consecutive year and Being in Europe's top 10 cities for business friendliness of any size.
- Ranked in the top 20 in the world for FDI Strategy.

Research shows that those who have already invested in the city consistently report its positive aspects including the skilled workforce, the competitive cost base, quality of life, connectivity and the scale of city which makes it accessible.

3.2 To support continued investment and project a positive profile for Belfast, the Council has opened the Innovation Factory, successfully attended MIPIM and is taking forward a market-facing strategy to position Belfast and working with city stakeholders to implement the International Relations

Framework. Accelerating investment in the city is central to meet the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda. Equally, the new powers for economic development have strengthened the Council's commitment to support indigenous businesses and local entrepreneurs and Committee have agreed to the development of a comprehensive business support service. In 2016/17, the Council helped to establish 584 new businesses, created 900 new jobs from start-ups and business growth and supported 2,200 people through our business support and networking activity across a range of programmes.

- 3.3 On reviewing this activity, there are several common elements of support and advice that local business, investors, developers and FDI clients would benefit from in the City, particularly in terms of ensuring co-ordinated promotion, marketing and access to the available support measures, incentives and services. Crucially, there is an opportunity to better connect and enhance the supply chain and partnership opportunities that new foreign owned investment and business will create for local businesses.**
- 3.4 Therefore, at its meeting on the 9th November 2016, Committee agreed to secure professional expertise to:**
- Identify and propose a package of potential support measures and incentives that Belfast City Council can offer to business start-ups, existing businesses wishing to grow and foreign owned businesses that might consider Belfast as an investment location.**
 - Specify a realistic scope of services to be provided through a 'City Support & Investment Advice/Concierge Service' to meet the needs of FDI, developers and indigenous businesses who may choose to start up, grow and invest in Belfast.**
- 3.5 The purpose of this is to augment the existing services and incentives to support, attract, secure and sustain business starts, business growth and investment. This will also be designed to provide an opportunity for better co-ordination of services and assurance that future approaches are additional and complementary to those services and support that is already provided by city partners.**
- 3.6 OCO Global/Webb Advisory were commissioned to take forward this work. To date this has included:**
- Research into similar provision in other cities in Europe, GB and Republic of Ireland.**

- **Assessment of the current availability of incentives and support for those wishing to start a business, existing businesses that wish to grow to export and foreign owned businesses who may choose to invest in Belfast**
- **Product and service mapping of the business development and investment journey in the city**
- **Local engagement to identify what local stakeholders and investors require. This includes engagement with the Innovation factory, Federation of Self Employed & Small Business Enterprise NI, inward investors, banks, recruitment agencies, property agents, commercial lawyers, the City's two universities, Inter-Trade Ireland and Belfast Harbour Commissioners.**
- **Engagement with Invest NI and Council officers in key service areas including economic development, international relations physical development, finance, planning, city centre, Smart and Resilient Cities.**

3.7 The findings to date have highlighted that there is an opportunity for the Council to take a greater city leadership and co-ordination role, creating a clear city proposition to accelerate investment and business opportunities in Belfast. The following key issues have been identified as important factors for investors, business and developers:

- **Competitive operating costs such as rental, property, labour costs**
- **Property availability, especially to 'land and expand' opportunities e.g. through the Innovation Factory**
- **Availability of, and ability to attract, talent and local skills levels**
- **Ease and speed of accessing key services such as planning, regulatory and business advice & support services**
- **Infrastructure and connectivity, including digital connectivity and the importance of air routes**
- **Quality of life and the importance of 'place'**

3.8 The consultants will build on these key issues at the Committee meeting, outlining their findings to date and presenting their initial thinking on the options for Belfast. This will provide an opportunity for the Committee to input their views to enable the further development of robust and focused proposals for a clear city proposition of incentives and support and the most effective means of establishing a co-ordinated city service. This will be brought back to Committee for consideration at their September meeting.

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

Resources are included within departmental budgets for 2017/18. Current delivery is being undertaken by teams from both the City Centre Development and Development Departments. The final report will include consideration of any specific issues, skills requirements, technical support or physical assets required to deliver an effective package of support measures and Belfast Business Investment Advice/Concierge Service.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality screening will be carried out once the options have been further developed. However, there is the potential to produce a positive impact on those sectors of the population who are currently underrepresented in business ownership and start-up.”

Mr Webb advised the Committee that, between 2009 and 2016, over 3,000 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects had established operations in Western Europe annually. He reported that the UK and Germany were the dominant destination markets, receiving nearly 50% of FDI arrivals.

Mr O’Connell advised that, while London was by far the largest recipient of FDI projects in the UK, taking 40% of the total projects, Belfast was a strong competitor given its size. The Members were advised that Belfast ranked 2nd, in terms of projects received per 100,000 residents, with a yearly average of 6.8 projects.

During discussion, Mr. Webb highlighted that Berlin was a good example of a City which had set itself up as a partner for any companies which wished to establish a base in the city.

A Member stated that there was a perception that FDI businesses were treated more favourably than local businesses and that was something that the Council should be mindful of in terms of the Advice Service.

A further Member stated that the Council needed to ensure inclusive growth was central to the Service while also ensuring that the Service did not duplicate services which were already being provided by Invest NI.

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

The Committee noted:

1. the findings to date; and
2. that a further update would be provided to the Committee at its meeting on 13th September.

Restricted Reports

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

**Item Referred back to Committee:
Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan**

(The City Solicitor and the Director of Property and Projects attended
in connection with this item)

The City Solicitor identified that a planning application directly impacted by this item was to be considered by the Planning Committee at a future meeting and that it would be prudent for Members of that Committee to leave the room for the duration of the discussion in order to avoid any allegations of pre-determination. Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Dorrian, Johnston, Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown and Mullan declared an interest and left the room for the duration of the item. Councillor Boyle also declared an interest in the item, in that he was a Member of the Markets Development Association, and also left the room.

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Committee that the Council, at its meeting on 1st June, had referred back the decision of 12th April, under the heading "Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan", to the Committee for further consideration.

The Director of Property and Projects outlined that the proposal in the Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan was for mixed-use developments in sites A, D, the NIE-owned site adjacent to D, J and K. He confirmed that the NIE had stated that it no longer required the site adjacent to Site D, and that it would consider selling it.

During discussion, a number of Members stated that it should be noted that the report had been published just two days in advance of the meeting, with the revised opinion from the Q.C. having been circulated to Members a matter of hours before the meeting.

A Member expressed serious concerns with the proposals, stating that mixed-use development could mean that two houses would be built on each site. The Member also stated that sites A, B, C, D and the NIE-owned site were currently zoned for housing under the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP); the Council did not own the NIE site; the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) had stated that sites J and K were out of the common housing area; there were inaccuracies in paragraphs 6, 7 and 26(b) in the Q.C.'s opinion and that the Q.C. agreed that there was evidence of social housing need in the immediate area with a significant number of cases registered as being in housing stress.

The City Solicitor explained that the information provided in paragraphs 6, 7 and 26(b) of the Q.C.'s opinion was not incorrect and, in relation to 26(b), clarified that the overall Gasworks Northern Fringe site was zoned for both residential and commercial development. He also advised that any outline planning application would be subject to consultation.

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The Director of Property and Projects advised the Committee that mixed-use developments would include housing but that the Council was not a housing provider.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara,

That the Committee agrees to defer the item in order to receive details of what is to be included in each site of the Northern Fringe.

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

Accordingly, the Committee considered the recommendations within the report, namely, that the Committee:

1. agrees to note the updated position in relation to the emerging Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan;
2. notes that a pre-planning process (PAD) is being pursued; a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) will be served and a fully compliant pre application consultation process will be undertaken; and
3. agrees to submit an outline Planning application for a comprehensive mixed use development, following the completion of the PAD process.

In response to a Member's request that a recorded vote be taken, the Committee agreed.

On a recorded vote, six Members voted for the recommendations and five against and it was declared carried.

For (6)	Against (5)
Aldermen Haire, Spence and L. Patterson; and Councillors Dudgeon, Graham and Howard.	Councillors Beattie, Hargey, O'Hara, O'Donnell and Walsh.

SIB – Review of Property Management

The Director of City Centre Development advised the Committee that the Department of Finance had proposed to consolidate and rationalise the central government office estate in Belfast city centre and that it was initially looking at three locations, Hope Street, Castle Street and Dunbar Link/Corporation Street.

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The Director provided the Members with an overview of each site and the benefits and challenges which they provided. She reported that construction was scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2019 and that it was expected that 1,500 staff would potentially be located at each site.

The Members were advised that the Council would continue to work closely with a number of agencies across the three locations in order to develop proposals for government offices.

The Committee noted:

1. the contents of the report; and
2. that any further masterplanning proposals which affected Council-owned assets would be the subject of a separate report to the relevant Council committees.

Inner North and West – Ongoing Masterplan Work

The Director of City Centre Development reminded the Members that, as part of the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS), a number of detailed planning activities had been undertaken to support and shape development in the city centre. She reported that, as part of that work, masterplanning work had been undertaken for the Inner North and West area of the city centre.

The Members were reminded that the Inner North and West areas were experiencing significant change, largely due to the new Ulster University campus and the planned works of Streets Ahead Phase 3.

The Director advised the Committee that the Masterplan sought to provide a detailed framework to help ensure a more comprehensive approach to development on public and private sector owned land, and to provide greater connectivity between adjacent communities and the city centre. She reminded the Committee that a holistic consideration of the key issues such as transport, connectivity, built heritage, community connections and an appropriate mix of uses would be used for that part of the city.

The Committee was advised that, given the numerous land owners and a number of complexities with the area, her team would engage with a diverse range of stakeholders over the coming months in order to develop the masterplan.

The Committee:

1. noted that targeted engagement was proposed to take place over the summer months with members and external stakeholders; and
2. agreed to receive a presentation of the draft masterplan in August for the Committee's consideration, ahead of the public consultation process.

VESPA Event June 2018 – Request for Funding

(The City Events Manager attended in connection with this item)

The City Events Manager explained to the Committee that he was seeking approval for financial backing of £30,000 for the 2018 World VESPA Gathering, which was proposed to be held in Belfast between 14th and 17th June.

He explained that, each year, a National Vespa Club put on a World event which attracted thousands of Vespa enthusiasts from around the world and that Belfast had been offered the chance to host the event by the Vespa Club of Britain.

He advised the Members that the local organising Committee for the VESPA World Gathering had estimated that the economic return to the City would be in the region of £7million through hotel, hospitality and retail expenditure, with up to 4,000 participants from across Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Europe visiting Belfast over a four day period.

He highlighted to the Committee that the event linked into the Belfast Agenda and the Place Positioning Strategy, in that it would reflect the vibrancy of Belfast, and also to the city's European Capital of Culture bid, due to the pan-European nature of the project.

The Committee was advised that officers would be requested to sit on the various Local Organising Committees and working groups in relation to the event and he explained that this had proved very useful and beneficial to the Council when working on previous events on a similar scale.

He reported that support for the event would be subject to a full legal contract with the event organisers and clarified that, if a default on the terms was to occur, Members would be notified accordingly.

The Committee agreed to provide support of £30,000 from the Events budget for the 2018 World VESPA Gathering to be staged in Belfast between 14th and 17th June, 2018.

Zoo Update

(The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services attended in connection with this item)

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 8th March, it had considered the outcomes from the Members' Workshop on the future options for the Belfast Zoo.

He reported the range of issues which were to be considered by the Committee at a later stage, including the future business operating model, the site, the size and animal collection and any capital investment implications.

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A Member stated that, during the Members' Workshop, the zoologists had confirmed that they believed that Bellevue was the location for the Zoo in the City.

He outlined the next steps to the Committee and confirmed that discussions with stakeholders had now taken place. He reported that a range of criteria and potential weightings had since been drawn up to allow an evaluation of the options to take place.

During discussion, and in response to a number of Members' comments, the Committee agreed that animal welfare was paramount and that the weighting allocated to it should be increased.

The Director explained that a similar process had been carried out for the newly opened Exploris Aquarium and that it was proposed that a visit be arranged to hear from the Members and officers from Ards and North Down Council who had been involved in the process to engage the market. It was envisaged that the visit would take place at the end of August.

A Member suggested that a visit to Tayto Park, Co. Meath, could also be useful for comparison.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that Criteria 3, namely, 'animal welfare', should be given a higher weighting in the evaluation criteria which would be used to assess the options;
2. agreed that a visit to Exploris be arranged in late August to discuss with, and hear from, Members and officers from Ards and North Down Borough Council regarding their experience, with all Members of the Council invited to attend; and
3. agreed that, following the visit to Exploris, a feasibility exercise be carried out to assess the options for the future business operating model for the Zoo, noting that the Council would not be committing to any option at that stage but that it would allow operational understanding of the impact of each and details of savings and/or costs.

Request to Present to Committee

Exterior Media

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the request in order to allow officers to meet with Exterior Media in the first instance.

Strategic Issues

Committee Plan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Committee held its annual planning workshop on 6 March 2017 to shape the upcoming work of the Committee and the new Corporate Plan. This was informed by the Council’s budget setting process for 2017/18. The workshop also provided the opportunity to consider the Committee’s role in maximising the Council’s contribution to delivering the Agenda.
- 1.2 The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth. The Committee is familiar with the four main priorities in the Belfast Agenda which demonstrate the centrality of growing the local economy to improving quality of life in Belfast. It sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus on the economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:
- Our city is home to an additional 70,000 new residents
 - Our urban economy supports 50,000 more jobs
 - There will be a 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
 - Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential
- 1.3 The Committee has already noted that delivering the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda will require a significant uplift in the investment and resource commitment from the Council to ensure that, along with partner organisations, we develop appropriate support, services and programmes to grow the economy, improve the skills base, support city development and enhance the ‘lived experience’ in the city.
- 1.4 The draft Committee Plan (available on modern.gov) draws together several annual delivery plans previously agreed by Committee (such as city centre development, support for businesses, employability & skills, tourism and the cultural framework). It sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee will oversee during 2017-18 to contribute to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the draft City Growth & Regeneration Committee Plan 2017-18; and
- Agree to receive a further economic briefing, which includes consideration of the Belfast's position post Brexit from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) at a future meeting.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for:

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

3.2 With input from Prof Neil Gibson (UUEPC) the planning workshop on 6 March 2017 provided an opportunity to set the Council's ambitions and Committee's progress and priorities within the current economic context and outlook. The purpose of the workshop was to translate the priorities of the Belfast Agenda into a work plan for the Committee to deliver in 2017/18.

3.3 To achieve the city ambitions to grow the economy and develop the city, Members agreed the need for a step change in what we do and how we work and a corresponding uplift in investment in 2017/18. In particular this will enhance small business and investment support and align it with the Smart City framework and employability and skills programmes, including the Belfast Works programme, which focuses on developing skills and employment opportunities for those furthest from the labour market.

3.4 The draft Committee Plan indicates the main programmes of work and aligns them to the priorities and work-streams

identified in the draft Belfast Agenda that will deliver on the four pillars of: Growing the Economy, City Development, Working & Learning and Living Here.

3.5 The draft Committee Plan outlines the key actions, milestones and Lead Director responsible for the delivery of programmes and projects. However, as Committee is aware many of these programmes and projects are cross-cutting and therefore require the involvement of more than one Council service, as well as engagement and partnership with city partners and communities.

3.6 The Committee has approved several reports on the key areas of work over the last two months which have been included within this annual draft Committee Plan; therefore the following provides a brief summary of the broad areas of work.

3.7 Growing the economy

- Developing an integrated sustainable approach to inclusive economic growth and investment
- Shaping the development of a Growth Deal for the City-Region; including strengthening the case for the transfer of regeneration powers to local government and enhanced devolution for employability & skills
- Maximising the city's connections to drive growth by delivering the International Relations Framework; and progressing the Belfast Business Support scheme and Investment Advice/Concierge Service
- Making it easy to do business in Belfast by developing and delivering a comprehensive small business service to help those wishing to start a business, existing businesses that wish to grow to export, accelerating growth for priority sectors; and encouraging foreign owned businesses to invest in the City.

3.8 City Development

- Delivering the City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy, including the development of comprehensive masterplan frameworks to better connect the city and developments, and supporting and delivering the key strategic city centre projects
- Supporting city centre governance arrangements to co-ordinate regeneration efforts, such as the Joint Regeneration Board, and stimulate market interest in

city development opportunities through the £18.7m City Centre Investment Fund

- Developing and submitting a joint bid for the 2023 European Capital of Culture with Derry City and Strabane District Council
- Delivering the integrated Tourism Strategy and developing the city's tourism offer
- Developing a city centre based world class visitor Belfast Story destination hub, that complements the current offer and connects to the wider city experience
- Delivering a successful market-facing strategy to promote and position Belfast, building commitment for a city brand identity and maximising opportunities for investment, tourism, study and regeneration

3.9 Working & Learning

- Delivering the Employability & Skills Framework; including the development of a Belfast employability pathway model (Belfast Works).
- Increasing engagement with the education sector and better understanding the needs of those furthest removed from the labour market to identify opportunities to help address the city's educational and skills inequalities.
- Working with the further and higher education institutions to ensure alignment of course provision to meet industry needs

3.10 Living Here

- Delivering the Cultural Framework and developing a new approach to culture, festivals and events

3.11 Central to this is ensuring that strategies and frameworks connect neighbourhoods to the city centre and that the whole city can enjoy the benefits. An important aspect of this will be the development of a Regeneration Engagement Strategy for the city centre, and ongoing efforts to engage with partners, business and communities to take a co-design and co-delivery approach to progress these programmes.

3.12 Regular updates on progress with key programmes will be brought back to Committee. A separate item on the Committee agenda proposes a new more accessible infographic-style format that is currently being developed to support this process. In the first instance this will be applied to the key Council programmes designed to contribute to growing the economy.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The Committee Plan will be delivered in accordance with the cash limits previously agreed by Committee and approved by Council in February 2017.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

A Member stated that, while the input from Professor Gibson from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) had been very informative to date, it would also be useful to hear other perspectives on Brexit.

During discussion, and in response to suggestions from Members, the Committee agreed to hold a Special meeting to discuss Belfast’s position post-Brexit, with Prof. N. Gibson, UUEPC, Dr. T. Healy, Nevin Economic Research Institute, and Dr. S. Nolan, Trademark, being invited to attend.

A Member highlighted the importance of the enterprise outreach and engagement programme which would target under-represented groups.

A further Member raised concerns regarding a recent article in The Irish News which stated that the Council had been storing wooden pallets for use on a bonfire in Hope Street. He requested that information be provided on what Council resources had been used to store the pallets and any legal implications which the Council might be open to as a result of any damage or injury to property or members of the public from that bonfire.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the issue of bonfires would be discussed at a meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel with the Party Group Leaders the following day and, as part of ongoing engagement on those issues, a further briefing at the Inter Agency Group partners and Party Group Leaders Forum had been scheduled for the following week.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,

Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee requests that a report be submitted to the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the issue of bonfires.

A further Member stated that the issue of bonfires was not relevant to the item which was under consideration and asked that the Chairperson make a ruling on whether

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the issue was relevant. The Chairperson ruled that the issue was relevant, in that bonfires could impact upon the City's economy.

Amendment

Moved by Alderman McGimpsey,

Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Committee refers back to the agenda, and that no report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

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

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Magee was put to the meeting, when nine Members voted for and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee:

1. agreed the draft City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2017-18; and
2. agreed to hold a Special meeting on Brexit and the economic impact, with Professor N. Gibson, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (JUEPC), Dr. T. Healy, Nevin Economic Research Institute, and Dr. S. Nolan, Trademark, being invited to attend; and
3. requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the issue of bonfires.

Car Parking Strategy

(The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 A report to update Members on the outcome of the public consultation on the Council's draft Car Parking Strategy, seek endorsement from elected members on the proposed final strategy and outline next steps for implementation was deferred by Committee in April to allow for further elected member briefings and consideration.**
- 1.2 The strategy makes recommendations relating to Council owned car parks and car parking provision outside our**

ownership. A key component of the strategy is to facilitate and encourage stakeholders to work together to achieve the vision and objectives. The Council wish to provide a strong civic leadership role for the promotion of a modern, safe, accessible and integrated transportation system for the City of Belfast and its wider region.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- note the issues raised during the party briefings and proposed response as outlined on modern.gov;
- note the main issues received during the public consultation process and if appropriate agree the Council's proposed response on how it will influence the final strategy content; and
- endorse the final strategy for publication and note the proposed next steps for the implementation of the action plan.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Public Consultation

3.2 The draft car parking strategy was published for public consultation on the Citizen Space platform from the 30th August 2016 to the 21st November 2016 and received 84 consultation responses with 11 additional responses received outside the Citizen Space platform. A public consultation event was held in City Hall on the 4th October 2016 which was open to elected members, key stakeholders and members of the public and was attended by over 30 representatives.

3.3 The overall response from the public consultation has been supportive of the strategy in particular the strategy objectives and the Council priorities. The consultation requested views on the Council's vision outlined in the strategy '*Belfast is a city offering sufficient, high quality and appropriately located parking which supports economic development and regeneration within the city by balancing the requirements of residents, businesses, commuters and visitors.*' 42% of respondents agreed with the vision whilst 38% disagreed. The general comments relating to the vision showed that car parking is a highly divisive issue with respondents either requesting that there should be increased car parking provision at lower cost or that car parking provision should be restricted in the city centre to improve the amenity for residents and visitors to the city. It is suggested that the vision

remains unchanged as we are advocating a balanced approach to car parking provision in the city. The strategy recognises that car parking in suitable amounts and locations is vital for the city centre to function properly. A balance is therefore necessary between car parking and other transport modes and between the needs of short-stay and long-stay parking users.

- 3.4** It is clear that the relationship between parking availability, cost, length of stay and its effect on retail trade is a complicated and emotive one. Evidence from Christmas 2015 suggested that the Council's offer of free car parking increased congestion, reduced accessibility and may have had a negative impact on footfall and retail trade. The Council's decision in 2016 to work with Translink to improve and incentivise public transport as an alternative to free car parking whilst controversial has proved highly successful with BCCM reporting average sales up by 7.8%, footfall up by 4.8% and Translink reporting ½ million extra passengers travelling into Belfast over the Christmas period.
- 3.5** There is currently a high volume of commuters travelling by car to Belfast which is leading to problems of increasing congestion and associated emissions resulting in poor air quality in a number of areas in the city. It is recognised that there is limited capacity in the city's highway network and therefore the promotion of public transport along with the appropriate provision for cars as part of a balanced approach is outlined in the strategy.
- 3.6** The public consultation responses showed strong consensus on the following issues:
- the need to introduce residents parking schemes in areas affected by all day commuter parking;
 - the proposal for consolidation of low quality surface car parking sites into multi storey/underground car parks with the caveat that adjacent local communities are consulted on the location and design;
 - the setting up of a Parking Forum with a number of groups expressing a willingness to participate in the Forum;
 - the need to improve quality, safety and security of car parking provision and to encourage car parking operators to achieve Park Mark standard;
 - the need to improve the information on parking availability and use of smart technology; and

- measures to deter all day commuter parking in free car parks at district centres to allow turn over and provision for shoppers.
- 3.7 A number of areas were highlighted that were missing from the strategy or needed more emphasis:
- the need for close consultation with local communities on any proposals to consolidate surface car parks and develop high capacity provision;
 - improved enforcement to prevent parking at bus stops, parking across dropped kerbs, parking on pavements and to prevent potential fraud and misuse of Blue Badges; and
 - parking initiatives to promote the evening economy and provision to cater for overnight/weekend visitors to hotels travelling by car.
- 3.8 The response from the Department for Infrastructure is generally supportive of the strategy and action plan, however, they would advocate for a clearer message on the need to reduce the supply of long stay commuter car parking in the city to support more efficient and cost effective public transport. They call for a more collaborative working approach on a number of issues which would be welcomed by the Council.
- 3.9 The Council's website provides further details on the [main comments](#) emerging from the public consultation process and our suggested response. It contains the proposed [final strategy and action plan](#). It is proposed an executive summary will be devised for the final version containing a narrative on the purpose of the strategy and a summary of the objectives, priorities and actions.

Implementation

- 3.10 The City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy identified car parking as a major issue for Belfast City Centre and recommended that the Council work with the Department for Infrastructure to develop and implement a strategy for car parking for Belfast. Representatives from DfI have been involved in the project steering group and the process has involved engagement with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. The strategy has outlined a number of objectives and priorities for action which is dependent on external bodies such as DfI, Translink and private car operators to deliver. It is proposed the delivery of the action plan will be cross departmental with the City Centre

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Development Team taking the lead and involvement from the City & Neighbourhood Services department, Planning & Place and Property & Projects.

3.11 The proposed next steps include:

Key next steps	Lead Department
Publication of final Car Parking Strategy and action plan including timeframe for implementation	City & Neighbourhood Services
Review of Council's off street parking provision to consider issues such as pricing, operation and naming through the internal Parking Order Working Group	City & Neighbourhood Services (currently underway)
Establish joint working arrangements with Dfl and consider priorities such as the review of the current city centre car parking provision/location and options to progress the implementation of residents parking schemes	It is proposed that the governance and delivery will be raised at the Transport Workshop meetings chaired by the Chief Executive with involvement from elected members, Council officers and senior officials from Dfl and Translink.
Establish the Parking Forum - Agree terms of reference and membership; and - agree priorities for action such as improved parking information/smart technology.	City Centre Development
Provide guidance to inform the development of the Council's Local Development Plan in terms of transport policy and the	Planning & Place / Dfl

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review of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan.	
Review of Council owned surface car parking provision to consider potential options for consolidation and redevelopment Visioning exercise to establish good design principles in relation to integration of high capacity car parking provision within the urban context Carry out a consultation process with local communities on any proposals to consolidate car parking provision and potential locations and design options	City Centre Development, Property & Projects & Place & Place
Report to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee to outline resources required for the implementation of the car parking strategy action plan.	City Centre Development & City & Neighbourhood Services

3.12 Finance and Resource Implications

Additional resources may be required for the implementation of the car parking strategy. If endorsed the recommendations will have future implications on Council revenue such as the resourcing of a Parking Forum, loss of parking revenue due to the redevelopment of city centre surface car parks, costs of improving car parks, introduction of charging in some free car parks in district centres and the introduction of free disabled car parking in Council owned off-street car parks. These have not been quantified in the research and will be reported to a future Strategic Policy & Resources Committee once the strategy is finalised.

3.13 Equality and Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations screening was conducted in parallel with the proposed consultation processes.”

A Member stated that discussions with the Department for Infrastructure were still to take place in relation to residents parking schemes. The Member also emphasised that residents should be consulted at the earliest possible stage in relation to the proposed placement of multi-storey car parks within the vicinity of inner city neighbourhoods.

In response to a further Member's question, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that the implementation of Residents Parking Schemes was being considered alongside the Local Development Plan and the Belfast Rapid Transit scheme.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that, if the Car Parking Strategy was to be agreed, it did not prohibit discussions with inner city residents from taking place. The Chief Executive added that community consultation was essential before any multi-storey car parks would be agreed.

During discussion, the Committee agreed that any references to multi-storey car parks in specific areas around the inner ring should be removed from the Strategy, given that the positioning had not yet been agreed.

In response to a further Member's question regarding the income that the Council received from each car park, it was agreed that this information would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was further agreed, in response to a request from a Member, that a letter be sent to the Department for Infrastructure in support of two hour waiting limits being introduced for car parking spaces which were positioned in local community areas near to bus stops, in order to prevent all-day commuter parking, given the impact that commuter parking was having on small, out-of-town shops.

The Committee:

1. noted the issues raised during party briefings and the proposed response as outlined;
2. noted the main issues received during the public consultation process and agreed the Council's proposed response on how it would influence the final strategy content;
3. endorsed the final strategy for publication, with the removal of references to any specific areas of the city around the inner ring, so as not to pre-determine the positioning of proposed multi-storey car parks;
4. noted the next steps for the implementation of the action plan;
5. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the income which was generated by each Council-owned car park; and

6. agreed that a letter be sent to the Department for Infrastructure in support of two hour waiting limits being introduced for car parking spaces in local community areas near to bus stops, in order to prevent all-day commuter parking.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

East Bank Strategy and Proposed Consultation

The Director of City Centre Development reminded the Committee that it had previously agreed to appoint a multi-disciplinary consultant team, led by Arup, to take forward a detailed framework for the area identified as the East Bank.

She explained that the draft strategy sought to ensure that the East Bank was fully woven into the fabric of the city centre. She outlined how the Strategy would seek to create a lively, diverse and accessible area which would be well-connected to the city core, the River Lagan and surrounding communities and would provide places to live, work and socialise.

The Council had established a Steering Group with staff from the City Centre Development and the Local Development Plan teams working alongside the appointed multi-disciplinary team led by Arup. The Director reported that both Transport NI and the Department for Communities had also nominated senior representatives to the group.

The Director explained that Arup had undertaken a comprehensive review of land use, transport and the economic context and had held two stakeholder workshops. She reported that early consultation with elected Members and other key stakeholders including major landowners, residents and community groups had commenced in December 2016, with a second stakeholder workshop having taken place in February 2017.

The Committee was advised that options for discussion in the draft Strategy had included significant rationalisation of road and rail infrastructure in the area to create a visionary sustainable transport corridor on Bridge End. She reminded the Members that planning consent had been granted for the removal of the Station Street flyover adjacent to Queen's Quay. The Committee was also advised that other proposals included the removal of the Bridge End flyover, a reduction of road space for general traffic and a proposed relocation of the TQ railway station.

She explained that the changes to the road and rail infrastructure would be carried out in phases, with a significant change required in the way people travelled on that corridor, in favour of public transport, walking and cycling, to compensate for the reduction in road space.

The Director advised the Members that the next step was to consult with key stakeholders and adjacent communities to seek their input on the options proposed and opportunities identified. She advised that the proposed consultation and engagement exercise would commence following the Council meeting on 3rd July and would last for 12 weeks.

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The Committee:

1. agreed to recommend to the Council that a public consultation exercise on the draft East Bank Strategy be undertaken over a twelve week period during summer 2017;
2. agreed to delegate to the Director of City Centre Development, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, the authority to take forward a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the area; and
3. noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the finalised version of the Strategy for approval in the autumn.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

European Capital of Culture

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 **This purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the Council’s joint bid with Derry City & Strabane District Council to become the UK designated city for the 2023 European Capital of Culture.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the contents of this report**
- **Note the joint Members workshop which will take place in the Seamus Heaney Centre in Bellaghy on the morning of 19 June 2017. All Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Party Group Leaders (or nominees) to be invited to attend**
- **Note the proposal to hold a workshop with key cultural partners as part of the engagement process in the afternoon of 19 June 2017**
- **Note the plans for the launch event to take place on 20 June 2017**
- **Note that work is underway on the programme development and the financial due diligence and that further reports will be brought back to the Committee for consideration at a future date.**

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3.0 Main report

3.1 Members are reminded that the submission of the European Capital of Culture Bid is a two-stage process as set out below:

Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Department of Culture Media and Sport of bid book by 27th October 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the bid proposal – November/December 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of bid proposal – November/December 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announcement of shortlisted candidate bids to move to Phase 2 – January 2018
Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stage II Submission & Detailed Programme – November 2018

3.2 A summary of the critical timeline in relation to the development and submission of the Stage 1 bid is available on modern.gov.

3.3 Member Workshop

In order to ensure that elected members are aware of the process and have an opportunity to input into and shape the programme development, it is proposed that a workshop will take place on the morning of 19 June 2017 at the Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy. This will involve elected representatives from both Councils. It is proposed that all Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Party Group Leaders (or nominees) from Belfast City Council be invited to attend this workshop. The workshop will start at 10.00am but there will be an opportunity for Members to undertake a tour of the Homeplace at 09.15am that morning.

3.4 The workshop will be an interactive session with colleagues from Derry City and Strabane District Council which will provide a forum for elected Members to:

- explore the opportunities and benefits of progressing a European Capital of Culture Bid;

- gain an insight into the experiences of other European Capitals of Culture in terms of the positive legacy which has been created; and
- input and shape the emerging vision and themes of the Bid.

3.5 Members will also receive an update on the programme of work underway and the associated timelines to submit the Stage 1 bid. They will also consider the draft engagement plan which is currently under development. This will contain a stakeholder analysis matrix; potential methods of engagement; an events calendar identifying engagement opportunities and a stakeholder gap analysis highlighting other audiences which may require bespoke engagement. Lessons learned from other cities underline the need for creative engagement mechanisms which will support wider outreach and feedback. Discussions are also underway with support agencies such as Volunteer Now to identify innovative engagement mechanisms and secure additional resources (e.g. volunteer network) to support the roll-out of engagement. It is anticipated that the above engagement process will not only assist both Councils in bidding for the European Capital of Culture, but will also allow both cities to engage with its citizens in a new mechanism that will provide benefits beyond the bid process.

3.6 Stakeholder Engagement

In the afternoon of 19 June 2017, it is proposed that there will be a stakeholder engagement session with key cultural partners. Attendees will include representatives from some of the major cultural institutions as well as relevant representatives from government departments and third sector organisations. This will also take place at the HomePlace.

3.7 Launch Event

The above engagement day will be followed by the formal public launch of the joint bid on 27 June 2017. Plans for the launch event – including venue and format – are currently being developed and an update will be provided at the Committee meeting.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Members are reminded that the Council has committed £500,000 to support the initial bid, with Derry City & Strabane District Council inputting £300,000. This finance will cover costs associated with the bid development including staffing;

consultancy; business case development; engagement process; marketing; public relations and bid design and production. As part of the development work on this phase of the bid, officers will identify the level of investment required for the delivery of the wider programme, if successful. This will require significant due diligence as well as engagement with other partners to explore opportunities for financial leverage. Additional information on this will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and decision.

3.9 Equality & Good Relations Implications

As with all major public facing cultural projects, the securing of the 2023 European Capital of Culture has the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city and across.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

City Deal Update

The Chief Executive provided the Members with an update on the progress which had been made in relation to a City Region Growth Deal for Belfast.

She reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 7th December, it had agreed to commission a full feasibility study on a City Region Growth Deal (City Deal) and she advised the Members that KPMG had been appointed to carry out that work. She explained that they had been tasked to provide a detailed evidence base, including forecast modelling, which would set out the rationale, financial construct and benefits of a City Deal for Belfast.

She reported that KPMG had indicated that an initial narrative to build partner and political engagement, and to secure buy-in, would be completed by mid-June. Financial and economic modelling reports based on potential geographies and investment priorities, and an analysis report on infrastructural needs, were estimated for completion by September, 2017, with a detailed City Deal proposal completed by the end of March, 2018.

The Committee was assured that, throughout the process, there would be ongoing political and stakeholder engagement with the following groups:

- Belfast City-Region Councillors and officers
- Newry, Mourne and Down, and Derry and Strabane Councillors and officers
- NI Assembly representatives
- Northern Ireland Office and Taoiseach's Office/Department for Foreign Affairs

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- Business sector including large businesses and representative bodies
- Innovation sector including universities, further education and innovation hubs
- City stakeholders such as the Belfast Harbour Commission
- NI Civil Service departments notably Department for Infrastructure; and Department for Finance

The Chief Executive reported that, further to political engagement over the past 6 months at Westminster, Stormont and in Council, an initial narrative paper, “When Belfast Succeeds...” had been prepared.

She advised the Members that KPMG was preparing a position paper to provide more detail on a potential City Deal vision, objectives and targets. The Members were advised that it would outline the city-region’s competitive advantages and a compelling programme of ‘asks’ which would demonstrably build inclusive growth, particularly in preparation for exit from the European Union. A copy of the paper would be circulated to the Members when it was available.

During discussion, the Chief Executive reported to the Committee that Belfast would follow the Glasgow model of a City Deal, which sought to provide above average improvements in areas of social disadvantage. She also highlighted to the Members that the City needed to raise its Gross Value Added (GVA).

A Member stated that he felt that Glasgow’s approach was the best fit for Belfast, and that the Council should also examine the ways in which Manchester had failed to deliver those improvements so that the same mistakes would not be made.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that she would circulate a copy of the position paper by KPMG.

The Committee noted the progress to date and agreed to the next steps.

Smart City Framework Update

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.

At its June 2017 meeting Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed 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**

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 **Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the contents of the report including plans for the launch of a Smart Belfast framework and supporting Challenge programme for SMEs in September 2017.**

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 (e.g. 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 SP&R 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 Department 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.

The Smart Belfast framework

- 3.5 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). 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 available on modern.gov 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.

The foundations for a Smart Belfast:

3.8 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.

Roadmap

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

Smart Belfast project pipeline

3.10 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.**

Smart Belfast Challenge programme

- 3.12 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 UK 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 prototypes 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.

Digital Catapult Open Challenge competition

- 3.15 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).

Wider innovation ambition

- 3.16 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.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.17 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 Having been agreed by SP&R the financial implications for the framework outlined above will need to be considered as part of the year end finance report which will be presented to the June SP&R Committee.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.21 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.

**Strengthening the Cultural Sector:
Proposed “Resilience Building” Investment Programme**

(Councillor McDonough-Brown declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Members with an update on the development work that has been undertaken by Officers from Belfast City Council, in conjunction with their counterparts from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI), to develop a targeted ‘resilience building’ programme for key citywide arts and cultural organisations in order to help the organisations to build a more stable foundation for their future growth
- Seek Members’ approval to proceed with the development and delivery of the programme
- Note the overall programme costs of up to £600,000 over a three year period, with costs to be evenly split between Belfast City Council and Arts Council for Northern Ireland. The Council contribution in the current financial year will be £100,000. This amount was set aside in the financial estimates for the current year and has already been approved by this Committee in April 2017, as part of the Cultural Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the report

- Approve to recommendation to proceed with the development and delivery of the programme, as set out in sections 3.6-3.12.

3.0 Main report

Strategic Context

3.1 In 2016, the Building Change Trust, in partnership with Arts and Business Northern Ireland, commissioned and financed research that examined social investment in the arts. The purpose of this research was to explore the potential for increasing social investment in the arts and cultural sector in Northern Ireland as a means of contributing to the sector's sustainability in the context of ever-reducing public funding sources.

3.2 The research report highlighted a number of key findings. These included:

- Arts and cultural organisations are very reliant on public funding at a time when this funding source is under significant threat. 59% of the organisations that participated in the survey reported public subsidy levels of 75% or more. Although some arts organisations have lost some or all of their funding over the last three years, standstill ACNI funding has been the reality for the majority over the past five to six years. It is important to note that, over that period, Belfast City Council budgets have been maintained and increased slightly. However, given the importance of the Arts Council's investment, this means a significant reduction in real terms for most organisations
- The need to increase the strategic financial management capacity amongst arts organisations and the development of board and trustee vision and expertise, particularly in relation to risk and investment readiness.
- Current funding structures and models do not support organisational stability and impede organisational development and growth. Arts organisations identified a number of specific challenges including:
 - Difficulties in securing adequate core funding
 - Annual funding cycles make it difficult to plan and to develop their programmes
 - The perception that funders penalise organisations which hold reserves

- Very burdensome application and reporting regimes;
- Delays in decision making, and;
- The burden of making provision for proposed 'in-year' funding cuts while trying to programme to meet audience demands.

3.3 It identified the need for a programme of strategic investment to cover areas such as:

- Diagnosis of organisational assets and organisational capacity to exploit them
- Attention to common themes and issues which organisations might more effectively tackle in collaboration with others rather than working alone
- Provision of dedicated and targeted support relevant to the needs of the specific organisation – while recognising opportunities for joint learning and supporting collaboration among organisations
- One-to-one mentoring and support to provide organisations with consistent encouragement and advice.

3.4 Members will be aware that Belfast City Council, in conjunction with Derry City and Strabane District Council, has agreed to submit a joint bid for European Capital of Culture (ECoC) in 2023. The foundation of a viable application is a strong and vibrant cultural sector. Belfast City Council currently invests almost £2million per annum across a range of support initiatives for the sector. However, it is clear that, similar to the issues identified in the Building Change Trust report, organisations are struggling with issues of limited capacity, short term funding management, cash flow management and limited marketing and financial management expertise. In that context, officers have been exploring opportunities for targeted investment in the city's key cultural infrastructure in terms of organisations and events in order to stabilise and establish a platform for sustainable development into the future.

3.5 Based on the Building Change Trust research and on engagement with cultural organisations that we already support, Officers have developed the concept of a Capacity Building Resilience Programme that would run over a three year period. The programme would be delivered through a phased approach, concentrating on building the capacity whilst helping to support the financial stability and longer-term resilience of the arts and cultural organisations that both organisations currently support.

Programme overview

- 3.6** The aim of the programme is to encourage creative thinking about how participating organisations can remain sustainable and develop in the context of a challenging funding environment and changing audience needs and to build the capacity within the organisation to meet those needs. The programme will enable citywide organisations to review and change their missions and/or business operations to achieve long-term creative and financial stability as part of the capacity building work aligned to the European Capital of Culture process. Organisations will be expected to commit to a forensic analysis of their current operations, examine their capacity at operational and Board level and demonstrate a willingness to take on board the recommendations of the independent advisors. Given the scale of investment, it is likely that there will be no more than 15 participants throughout the duration of the programme.
- 3.7** All elements of the organisation's operations will be considered – depending on their individual circumstances. These might include:
- Review of business processes, taking account of opportunities to streamline activities, or perhaps to put an end to activities that are no longer in keeping with the organisation's mission
 - Consideration of changes in business structures e.g. acquisitions, mergers, alliances or joint ventures
 - Exploration of opportunities for financial restructuring to reduce overheads and or achieve economies of scale
 - Assessing how organisations can engage better with artists and audiences alike and how they can develop new audiences
 - Exploring ways to support innovative artistic practice
 - Improving organisational management capacity to support business growth.

Programme timetable

- 3.8** It is planned that the programme will commence in the current financial year. The main focus of the work this year will be on programme design, development and commissioning.
- 3.9** An initial call for applications will open at the end of 2017. Organisations applying for support will be required to give consideration to their key current challenges in creative and

business terms and the outcomes that they expect from participation in the programme. Once they are accepted on to the programme, the initial diagnostic work and that detailed technical support interventions will take place over a period of around nine months, depending on the needs and availability of the individual organisations. Following this intervention, organisations may be able to apply for financial assistance to help towards the implementation of some of the recommendations. This financial assistance may cover items such as funding for time-limited development projects or provision of mentoring support over a defined time period on issues such as marketing or audience development to stimulate business growth. Other forms of support may be available, such as injections of working capital. However, financial awards will not be made to help with the day-to-day financial outgoings of the organisation; they will focus on supporting the strategic development of the organisation.

Draft Eligibility criteria

- 3.10 Officers are currently finalising the eligibility criteria for the scheme. However, at present, it is proposed that participating organisations should comply with the following criteria:**
- 1. Must be based in Belfast and currently in receipt of funding from both ACNI and Belfast City Council. This means that organisations must have an office in and operational focus in the Belfast City Council area**
 - 2. Must be a formally constituted arts or heritage organisation, in other words, have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association**
 - 3. Organisation's primary missions must lie in the creation, production or presentation of the arts**
 - 4. Must be recognised as charities or established on a non-profit distributing basis**
 - 5. Must have paid full-time staff**
 - 6. Must demonstrate that their programme has a city-wide reach**
 - 7. Must have an annual turnover in excess of £400,000**
 - 8. Must have a business plan covering at least the next 1-3 years of activity**
 - 9. Must have a marketing and audience development plan (s) covering at least one year of activity**
 - 10. Must have up-to-date annual and management accounts signed and agreed by the board or management committee**
 - 11. Must have a board or management committee and supply a list of members**

12. Must agree to dedicate adequate senior management time to the programme, for the entire duration of the support activity
13. Must be willing to disclose their business affairs fully to external advisors and enter into the spirit of the programme
14. Must have all relevant policies in place, such as a child protection policy and equal opportunities policy and keep to relevant laws including the Race Relation (NI) Order 1997, the Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976, fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

The Belfast City Council budget allocation for this year is £100,000. This amount will be matched by the same level of funding from ACNI. The Council allocation will be resourced from the agreed Departmental budget allocations for the current financial year, as set aside in the budget estimates process. These have already been approved by the Committee.

- 3.12 Overall programme costs over the three year period will total £600,000. This will be evenly split between Belfast City Council and ACNI. The budget for subsequent years of the programme delivery will have to be secured through the annual estimates setting process and will be included as part of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's annual budget.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Officers will liaise with the Council's Equality & Diversity Officer on the development and roll out of the programme and undertake any required equality screening exercise of the programme."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Other Voices Event

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to provide financial support towards the organisation and delivery of an “Other Voices” event in Belfast at the end of October 2017. It is intended that this event will be a precursor to a larger event

which will take place in the city annually from 2018 onwards, linking in with other, more established creative events.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report, including the proposal to bring the “Other Voices” event to Belfast for the first time in October 2017 – as a precursor event to a potentially larger event in 2018
- Agree to a budget allocation of £40,000 from the existing development department budget towards the October 2017 event.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background to Other Voices

Other Voices started as a one-off music event in a small church in the west of Ireland in 2002. Since that time, the event has grown to become one of the most significant music events in Ireland. Its reach has also extended beyond its Dingle base. In 2013, the event moved to Derry-Londonderry as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations. In 2016, Other Voices recorded live from Austin, Texas, as part of the SXSW international music event. In Summer 2017, there will once again be an “Other Voices” stage as part of the annual Electric Picnic concert. The event has also been produced in New York.

3.2 This enhanced profile has enabled the event to attract a range of well-known acts over the years. These include Willie Nelson, Ellie Goulding, Gregory Porter, Amy Winehouse and Mumford and Sons. In addition, the event has attracted many indigenous acts and has provided a platform for showcasing up-and-coming talent. The event is currently broadcast on Irish broadcaster RTE’s television and digital platforms.

3.3 In addition to the live performances, the event also involves a wide range of outreach and engagement activity with local residents and those involved in the culture and arts sector. Events include workshops, tours and trails, musical showcases, school engagement activities and local concerts.

3.4 Event organisers have, for some time, been exploring the opportunity of bringing the Other Voices Festival to Belfast. Given the decision to make an application for the European Capital of Culture in 2023 with Derry-Londonderry, and the commitment to build the city’s cultural profile and showcase its creative talent, it is considered that this would be an appropriate time to consider an event in Belfast.

- 3.5 Early discussions have identified the potential to use this event to position Belfast as a unique musical destination as well as a smart, creative, tech city. This is in keeping with the emerging City Positioning brand and narrative that Members considered at the May 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. It also aligns with the Cultural Framework, particularly in terms of the themes of “Attracting Audiences” and “Inspiring Communities”. Finally, the “City Development” theme of the Belfast Agenda focuses on supporting the cultural regeneration of the City as a means of supporting inclusive growth and profiling Belfast as a dynamic business location.**
- 3.6 At this stage, a number of key partners have been identified and further work is underway to scope the detail of the programme. The initial view of the organisers is that the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts would be a good “hub” for the 2017 event but that there would be a number of satellite venues across the city. This is in keeping with the heritage of the event which began in a small church. It also underlines the unifying power of culture and ensures that the event is firmly rooted in the community. An indicative date of end October 2017 has been pencilled in. Organisers are keen to focus on the “current Belfast” narrative, particularly the success of the City in the areas of technology and media. They have been engaging with a number of local events such as Digital DNA which profiles the importance of technology across all business sectors and have identified opportunities for greater alignment with this and other local events for future years.**
- 3.7 Although at the early stage of planning, it is proposed that the event will encompass live indoor concert performances, classes and workshops, mentoring, talent development, a music trail and extensive filming and editing of high quality digital content for broadcast and global digital transmission. Community engagement is key to the success of Other Voices. The team will work closely with community groups and local delivery partners, to deliver an ambitious and wide-reaching programme of events in October 2017 in the build up to a wider festival event to be held in the City in 2018. Discussions are under way with local broadcasters to ensure that the event is profiled locally and internationally and this will provide an opportunity to relay a positive narrative about Belfast’s vibrant cultural scene as well as its global technological capacity. There will also be extensive use of digital platforms as a means of engaging young people (who tend to consume material in this way) as well as international audiences. Both are key target audiences for the City Positioning work.**

- 3.8 Experience from previous events suggests that the Other Voices event can have a significant economic, social and cultural impact on the local area. The organisers have provided examples from their work in Derry-Londonderry where they worked closely with a mixture of schools, community groups, local music organisations and venues including the Glassworks, the Apprentice Boys' Hall, St Augustine's Church and the Craft Village, as well as the hospitality sector. Other Voices commissioned economic impact research in Dingle, Co Kerry, which showed that the festival had a significant impact on business and turnover in the hospitality sector, particularly at a traditionally dormant period (early December). It also showed that Other Voices was effective in positioning and promoting awareness of the destination brand "The Wild Atlantic Way" and this is widely carried in all Tourism Ireland promotion of the area.**
- 3.9 At this stage, the organisers have identified funding of more than £100,000 from a number of partner organisations towards the event. They expect that the overall costs associated with organising the event will be in the region of £200,000. They have approached Belfast City Council to request a contribution of £40,000 towards the event. If this is approved, an updated programme will be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee, in advance of the event.**
- 3.10 Financial and Resource Implications**
The cost of the event in October 2017 is likely to total around £200,000. This will include all production costs, development and delivery of the outreach programme and broadcasting costs. Funding of £100,000 has been identified and secured by the event organisers. They have approached Belfast City Council to ask for a contribution of £40,000 towards the costs of hosting the event. These funds have been set aside within the Development Department budget for 2017/18 that was approved as part of the budget estimates process.
- 3.11 Subject to satisfactory delivery of the October 2017 event, the organisers are planning ahead for a more significant event to take place in Belfast in 2018. Work is already underway to explore potential funding partners as well as building the local networks at community level to create a solid foundation for future activities. No specific funding request has been made from the Council at this point.**
- 3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications**
The event programme will be equality proofed and there will be a significant programme of outreach and engagement which will be open to all communities."

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 14th June, 2017**

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Economic and International Development confirmed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting with more detail on Other Voices, including costs.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Q4 Finance Report

The Chief Executive presented the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to the Members. She advised them that the Quarter 4 (Q4) position for the Committee was an under spend of £147,000 (0.9%), which she explained included additional income of £86,000, and was well within the acceptable tolerance of 3%.

The Committee was advised that the current position related to vacant post across a number of services, receipt of additional income of Off Street Car Parking charges and an under spend of programme Costs in the Development Directorate and Parks Estates.

The Committee was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed, at its meeting on 18th November, 2016, to cap in-year Departmental cash limits at the Quarter 2 forecast levels to offset the rates clawback advised by the Land and Property Service. The Committee noted that it was not, therefore, in a position to re-allocate any of the under spend.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

**Quarterly Progress Report – Business Programmes,
Initiatives and Events**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Belfast Agenda sets a challenging ambition for the city to be home to an additional 70,000 new residents and an economy that supports 50,000 more jobs by 2035. Growing the economy and driving inclusive growth to ensure that all people benefit from economic success is at the core of this ambition.**
- 1.2 To deliver on this, the Council has agreed to a significant step change in the provision of Council support to accelerate new businesses to start and support existing businesses to grow and export as well as driving the delivery of the Employability & Skills Framework. This forms a core element in ensuring that all communities benefit from economic growth as well as**

positioning Belfast to attract international investment from developers, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and institutional investment.

- 1.3 In March 2017, the Committee agreed to the publication of the 'Belfast Facts & Figures' booklet which has been well received by external audiences. Committee also noted the ongoing work to produce additional infographic-style materials to increase awareness of the contribution of Belfast City Council programmes to deliver on the ambitions to Grow the Belfast economy. The Committee already receives updates on the annual programmes of work and the Committee Plan, which features as a separate item on the agenda. However, this report outlines the proposed format for future quarterly progress performance reports on the Council's contribution to Growing the Belfast Economy to ensure Committee is kept informed of progress.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note that infographic progress reports will be brought to future meetings of the Committee to provide regular updates on the Council's performance and contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda ambitions.
- Consider and agree the proposed format and type of information to be included in future progress reports on the Council's contribution to achieving the Belfast Agenda targets to Grow the Belfast economy

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Committee receive a series of economic briefings as well as updates and presentations on key strategic developments in the city. The recent publication of the Belfast Facts & Figures booklet has been well received by internal and external audiences as an easily accessible information source.
- 3.2 A report on the Committee Plan 2017/18 is included as a separate item on the Committee agenda. The Committee Plan collates the annual programmes of work, agreed by Committee at their meetings in March and April 2017 and demonstrates the alignment to the Belfast Agenda priorities

and city ambitions and the significant increase in the range of programmes and support.

- 3.3 The Committee have requested regular updates on the performance and contribution of the Council to delivering the City's targets outlined in the Belfast Agenda. Committee have noted that infographic style materials will be developed to provide an easily accessible visual representation of the Council's progress against performance targets. These materials will be developed in line with the key programmes and projects included in the Committee Plan to provide a more concise and visual representation of this information. This will also assist Members in communicating the Council's progress and contribution to Growing the Belfast Economy in terms of encouraging new businesses to start up, supporting existing businesses to grow and export, inward investment and employability and skills.
- 3.4 The proposed format and example content for the progress performance reports are available on modern.gov for Starting a Business and [Growing a Business](#). This includes key performance and programme information relating to the support provided for those who wish to start a new business and for those existing businesses that wish to grow to export. This includes key performance information related to Council activity in terms of:
- the financial investment to support this activity
 - the number of jobs created
 - the number of programme participants
 - the number of referrals to other agencies
 - summary information on the programmes delivered by Council
- 3.5 At this stage the infographics include indicative budgets and funding / investment secured. The figures are still estimates, as several of the core programmes and initiatives are currently being procured and the actual cost/income and targets will be profiled and confirmed once these procurements conclude and contracts are entered in to. Many of the projects are being part-funded by ERDF and Invest NI. Eligibility and funding draw-down is another factor that will impact on some of the key reporting headlines. It is therefore proposed that the first progress report in this format will be brought to Committee in October 2017, which will include information relating to Quarters 1 and 2.
- 3.6 It is proposed that similar reports will be developed for other priority themes such as Employability and Skills and Investing

in Belfast. There is also scope to develop this further into other areas of Council activity to build on the range of concise infographic-style materials on key statistics, information and performance to support the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda. Members are therefore asked to note that these materials will continue to evolve and develop as programmes go live and that they will provide a key reference point to support existing material used by our city partners when promoting Belfast as a place to do business, visit, study or invest in.

3.7 The Committee should note that these materials will be made available on the Members Portal, once finalised and that regular updates on progress will be brought back to Committee on a quarterly basis.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

The progress reports will be produced internally, therefore requiring officer time, and within existing departmental budgets.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 21st June, 2017

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Aldermen McCoubrey, L. Patterson and Sandford;
and Councillors Armitage, Bell, Boyle, Campbell,
Collins, Dudgeon, Groves, Hutchinson,
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 Councillors Carson, Clarke and Heading.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st June, subject to the 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.

Revocation/Renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence with a Recent Conviction – The Belfast Barge, Lanyon Quay

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th January, it had agreed, as an additional deterrent, that, in future, as soon as a licence holder had been convicted of an offence, they would be invited to appear before the Committee to outline the reasons why their licence should not be revoked.

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Accordingly, the Building Control Manager drew the Committee's attention to an inspection which had been undertaken in July, 2016 of the Belfast Barge in Lanyon Quay, whilst entertainment had been taking place. Officers had found that the exit door to the rear of the multi-function space had been obstructed by the band's equipment and that the emergency light above that exit had not been illuminated. In addition, both the external gate on the rear escape walkway and one leaf of the main entrance/exit door had been locked in a closed position and the appropriate pre-entertainment checks had not been carried out. As a result, Lagan Legacy Limited, the licence holder, had on 23rd May, been convicted of the offences and been fined £150 and ordered to pay £76 in costs.

He informed the Committee that, in addition to considering the potential revocation of the Entertainments Licence, it was required to determine an application for the renewal of the licence, to allow entertainment to continue to take place within the multi-function space and the gallery restaurant between 8.00 a.m. and midnight on each day of the week. He reported that no written representations had been received in relation to that application and that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered objections. Since the offences had been detected, officers had met with the management of the premises to review their fire safety procedures and to ensure that appropriate measures had been put in place to ensure the safe evacuation of patrons in the event of an emergency. Two subsequent inspections of the venue had revealed no further issues and officers were satisfied that it was now being managed effectively. The Council's Environmental Protection Unit had indicated also that, since the licence had last been renewed, it had received no complaints regarding noise breakout or patron dispersal.

He pointed out that a representative of the applicant company was in attendance and that, once the Committee had heard his submission, it was required, firstly, to decide if it wished to revoke the barge's Entertainments Licence. Should it decide against that, it was then required to consider the application for the renewal of the licence.

The Chairperson then welcomed to the meeting Mr. J. Crooks, a Director of Lagan Legacy Limited.

Mr. Crooks informed the Members that Lagan Legacy Limited accepted full responsibility for the serious offences which had been detected in July, 2016. He explained that, immediately following that inspection, the company had appointed a new manager, revised its safety procedures and implemented a comprehensive training regime for staff, with a view to ensuring that there would be no further breaches of the Entertainments Licensing legislation.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Crooks for attending the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed not to revoke the Entertainments Licence for the Belfast Barge, Lanyon Quay and, accordingly, approved the application for the renewal of the licence.

Applications for the Renewal of Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions – Caulfield’s Bar/Malone Rugby Football Club/Box Nightclub

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented, you are required to consider the applications and to:-

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

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

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

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

Premises and Location	Applicant	Application Type	Offence Details	Date of Conviction and Penalty
Caulfield’s Bar 685 Springfield Road Belfast	Tony Clarke Douglas Adams	Renewal	4th July 2015 Final exit locked shut and an obstructed means of escape	8th March 2016 £200 and £69 Court Costs

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Malone Rugby Football Club 8 Gibson Park Avenue Belfast	Raymond Thomas Honorary Secretary	Renewal	22nd August 2015 Entertainment taking place without an Ent. Licence	5th April 2016 Conditional Discharge £69 Court costs
Box Nightclub Units 1 and 8 Odyssey Pavilion 2 Queens Quay Belfast	Sheridan Nightclubs Limited	Indoor and Outdoor Renewals	25th September 2014 Entertainment taking place in an outdoor area without an Outdoor Entertainment s Licence	17th November 2015 £200 and £69 Court costs

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

3.4 Application History

3.5 *Caulfield's Bar*

3.6 This is the second time an application for the premises has been considered since the applicant was convicted on 8th March 2016. The last renewal application was brought before the Committee at your meeting on 18 May 2016 and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the licence.

3.7 Members are reminded that you have considered applications for other premises for which the applicant is licensee since their conviction for the offences involving Caulfield's Bar, namely, The Suffolk Inn, which you considered at your meeting on 17th August 2016, the Sliabh Dubh, which you considered at your meeting on 21st September 2016 and Failte Restaurant, which you considered on 14th December 2016.

3.8 After taking account of the conviction, you agreed to renew each of these licences respectively.

3.9 Since the previous renewal the premises have been subject to two during performance inspections as well as the renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of the breaches or any

other safety issues. As a result, we have found that safety measures and management procedures are being implemented effectively.

3.10 *Malone Rugby Football Club*

3.11 This is the second time an application for the premises has been considered since the applicant was convicted on 5th April 2016. The last application was brought before the Committee at your meeting on 20th April 2016 and, after consideration, you agreed to grant the licence.

Since the licence was granted, the premises have been subject to one during performance inspection as well as the renewal inspection to ensure that there have been no issues.

3.12 No entertainment was found to be taking place at the time of the during performance inspection but from the renewal inspection we are satisfied that safety measures and management procedures are being implemented effectively.

3.13 *Box Nightclub*

This is the second time applications for the premises has been considered since the applicant was convicted on 17th November 2015. The renewal application for the Indoor Entertainments Licence and Grant application for the Outdoor Entertainments Licence were brought before the Committee at your meeting on 18th May 2016 and, after consideration, you agreed to grant the licences.

Since the granting of those licences, the premises have been subject to four during performance inspections as well as the renewal inspection to ensure that there have been no issues. As a result, we have found that safety measures and management procedures are being implemented effectively.

3.14 Representations

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

3.15 PSNI

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

3.16 NIFRS

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

3.17 Applicants

The applicants and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to their respective applications. Copies of the respective application forms for the premises are attached.

3.18 Financial and Resource Implications

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

3.19 Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed to renew:

- i. the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Caulfield’s Bar, 685 Springfield Road;
- ii. the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Malone Rugby Football Club, 8 Gibson Park Avenue; and
- iii. the Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences for the Box Nightclub, Units 1 and 8 Odyssey Pavilion, 2 Queen’s Quay.

Application for Extended Hours – Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival and Community Fun Day, Blanchflower Playing Fields

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received from the Wilgar Community Forum requesting that the standard hours on the Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Blanchflower Playing Fields be extended to facilitate the annual Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival and Community Fun Day.

He reported that the licence was held by the Council’s City and Neighbourhoods Services Department and was transferred to organisers for the duration of their event. Under the terms of the licence, entertainment was permitted to take place from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. and special conditions were

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attached to each licence in relation to occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints.

He reported that the festival had, for the past five years, been held within the grounds of Dundela Football, Athletic and Social Club. However, this year, the Forum had applied for the use of the Blanchflower Playing Fields, as it considered it to be a more central location and capable of accommodating a higher number of patrons, and had, on 9th May, obtained approval from the People and Communities Committee. This year's event would include a mixture of rock and blues music, artistic performances and children's fun day activities and the organiser had indicated that the extension of the Entertainments Licence till 1.00 a.m. on Friday, 4th and Saturday 5th August and until midnight on Sunday, 6th August would offer an enhanced experience for patrons, many of whom would not have an opportunity to attend similar events or festivals.

The Building Control Manager pointed out that this was the first time in which a musical event would be held within the playing fields and reminded the Committee that it had, at recent meetings, approved similar requests for events taking place in other Council parks and open spaces. 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 Forum was working with the Building Control Service to agree the appropriate documentation, including a site layout plan and a residents' notification letter, and with the Council's Environmental Protection Unit to formulate an effective noise management plan, with a view to keeping noise disturbance to a minimum. He concluded by pointing out that inspections by officers of previous events which had been organised by the Wilgar Community Forum had revealed no issues.

The Committee agreed that the standard hours on the Seven-Day Annual Marquee Licence for the Blanchflower Playing Fields be extended to enable entertainment to take place until 1.00 a.m. on Friday, 4th and Saturday 5th August and until midnight on Sunday, 6th August, as part of the annual Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival and Community Fun Day, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

**Application for Extended Hours –
Belfast Oktoberfest, Custom House Square**

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

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He reported that an application had been received from the organisers of the inaugural Belfast Oktoberfest event, seeking approval to have the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for Custom House Square extended to enable entertainment to take place till midnight on six nights during October, namely, from Thursday, 19th, till Saturday, 21st and from Thursday, 26th till Saturday, 28th.

He explained that the event, which would be taking place over ten nights in total, was held in many cities across the world, with the aim of showcasing a range of German beers, other drinks and foods and live music. The organisers had indicated that the additional hour on each of the six nights would provide patrons with a memorable experience and an opportunity to visit surrounding bars and restaurants after their event had concluded. He reminded the Committee that it had, in recent months, granted approval for a number of events and festivals, such as the Belfast Beer Festival, the Belfast City Blues Festival and the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, to operate beyond 11.00 p.m. within the Square.

The Building Control Manager pointed out that, since the application related to the extension of the hours permitted under an existing licence condition, rather than the variation of the Entertainments Licence itself, there had been no requirement for it to be advertised. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections to the application, however, they would be attending pre-event meetings to comment upon public safety, traffic management, transport and wider operational issues. He added that officers of the Building Control Service had met with the organisers and with representatives of the Department for Communities to discuss the documentation to be submitted and would continue to work with them and other relevant parties to ensure that appropriate measures were put in place to protect public safety. They would ensure also that an appropriate letter would be issued in advance to local residents, providing details of the festival.

In terms of noise issues, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit would be assessing the noise management plan to ensure that local residents and businesses would not experience undue disturbance.

The Committee agreed that the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for Custom House Square be extended to enable entertainment to take place till midnight on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st, Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October, as part of Belfast Oktoberfest, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

**Rescinding of a Designating Resolution for
a Street Trading Site – Blackstaff Square**

The Committee was reminded that the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 permitted a Council not only to designate specific streets or parts thereof as being suitable for street trading but to rescind a designating resolution which it had made previously.

The Building Control Manager reported that the Department for Communities had written to the Council requesting that a previously designated site located on land which it owned in Blackstaff Square be rescinded. The site, which had recently been vacated by

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a trader, had, over the years, proven to be problematic in terms of the various developments taking place around it, and was no longer considered to be viable.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th April, it had granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the designation of several new street trading sites and for the variation of the commodities and services at previously designated sites and confirmed that a public notice providing details of those proposals and inviting representations was being finalised. He pointed out that the process for making and for rescinding a designating resolution was identical and that, should the Committee accede to the Department for Communities' request regarding Blackstaff Square, that proposal could be added to the public notice.

The Committee agreed to initiate the statutory process for the rescinding of the designating resolution for the site in Blackstaff Square and noted that it would in due course receive a report on the outcome of the overall consultation process.

Fees for Street Trading Licences

The Building Control Manager reminded the Committee that it had delegated authority to determine certain fees, including those for street trading. He reported that the fees for stationary, mobile and temporary licences had remained unchanged since the Street Trading legislation had been introduced in 2002 and reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 15th June, 2016, it had approved a list of proposed fees, as a basis for public consultation.

He reminded the Committee further that, at its meetings on 18th January and 19th April, it had deferred consideration of the outcome of that consultation to enable officers to formulate further fee options for licences and to consider an appropriate fee for a licence to cover one day only between Monday and Friday. He provided an overview of the options which had been presented to the Committee on 17th May, which were based primarily on one compliance visit per year, two compliance visits per year and an inflationary increase since 2002, and would enable the Council to recover 61%, 65% and 53% of its costs, respectively. The Committee had again agreed to defer the matter to enable officers to formulate a further option, based around a combination of the latter two options, with a view to keeping the increases for each licence type at a similar level.

Accordingly, he submitted for the Committee's consideration the following table, which set out the current scale of fees for each licence, together with a revised option, in keeping with its decision of 17th May:

	Current Fee	Revised Option
STATIONARY LICENCE		
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 100	£ 150
Renewal Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 100	£ 150
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£ 629	£ 800
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	£ 800	£ 1,000

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Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£ 1,017	£ 1,250
Licensed for Saturday	£ 426	£ 520
Licensed for Sunday	£ 472	£ 580

MOBILE LICENCE		
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 180
Renewal Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 180
Licensed for Monday to Friday	£ 429	£ 550
Licensed for Monday to Saturday	£ 628	£ 800
Licensed for Monday to Sunday	£ 882	£ 1,100
Licensed for Saturday	£ 199	£ 300
Licensed for Sunday	£ 254	£ 380

TEMPORARY LICENCE		
Application Fee - <i>Non refundable</i>	£ 120	£ 180
Licensed for Monday to Friday, per day	£ 26	£ 40
Licensed for Saturday	£ 36	£ 50
Licensed for Sunday or Public holiday	£ 45	£ 70

Variation of Licence Particulars	£ 50	£ 100
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The Building Control Manager provided clarification around the revised charges and pointed out that, if approved, the Council should be able to recover approximately 43% of its costs. In terms of offering a one-day stationary or mobile licence to cover a single day between Monday and Friday, he suggested that the Committee might wish to consider charging £300, on the basis that it was one-fifth of the proposed fee of £1,500 for a weekday licence included within the scale of fees which it had, in June, 2016, approved for public consultation.

After discussion, it was,

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

That the Committee agrees:

- (i) to adopt the revised scale of fees for Street Trading Licences, as set out within the foregoing table;
- (ii) that a fee of £300 be set for a Stationary or Mobile Street Trading Licence, covering any one day between Monday and Friday; and
- (iii) that the scale of fees be reviewed after a period of one year.

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

Non-Delegated Matters

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the scope of the Licensing Committee in the decision making process relating to the making of Orders restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connection with special events and to consider proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 As these decisions are not a delegated function of the Licensing Committee, the Committee is requested to:**

- 1. agree that the Scheme of Delegation be amended, as outlined in paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12, and**
- 2. provide feedback, if necessary, to be incorporated into a subsequent report to the SP&R Committee on the amendments proposed.**

- 2.2 Any decision of Committee in relation to amendments to Standing Orders or the Scheme of Delegation will be subject to ratification by Council.**

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (the Roads Act) gives the Council the power to temporarily prohibit or restrict the use of public roads, to facilitate the holding of a special event, which includes filming.**

- 3.2 Members may recall that the legislation was previously planned to commence in 2013 and, at a meeting of the Licensing Committee on 20th March 2013, it was agreed that the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Licensing Committee to determine all applications under the**

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Act, this was subsequently adopted by Council at their meeting of 3 April, 2013.

- 3.3 At that time, the Committee undertook to consider all applications whether or not any representations had been received by the Council. Members may wish to reconsider that decision to allow for applications to be dealt with as quickly as possible.**
- 3.4 Members were advised, at your meeting in May 2017, that the Department for Infrastructure (the Department) had determined that those aspects of The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (the Act) related to the holding of special events on roads will commence on the 4 September 2017.**
- 3.5 From then on, any person wishing to close a public road for a special event will be required to apply to the Council and, after public notification and consultation with various statutory bodies including the PSNI and NIFRS and after receiving the consent of the Department, the Council will determine if a Road Closure Order is to be made.**
- 3.6 The Act defines special events as any sporting event, social event or entertainment which is held on a public road or the making of a film on a public road.**
- 3.7 Officers met recently with Northern Ireland Screen, which is an agency established to maximise the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industries for the benefit of Northern Ireland. They advised that in 2016 there would have been 16 Road Closure Orders required to facilitate filming in Belfast.**
- 3.8 During the meeting, it became clear that, if all Road Closure Order applications had to be determined by the Committee, including those where there is no objection, this could have an impact on filming taking place in Belfast.**
- 3.9 The film industry operates on relatively short lead in times prior to filming commencing on site and, whilst they are keen to see the legislation implemented, Northern Ireland Screen are concerned that our estimated turnaround time from application to determination could be 3 months or more if all applications are to be considered by Committee.**
- 3.10 It is estimated that, if delegated authority is granted to issue Orders where no objection is received, an application could be determined within approximately 35 days; taking account**

of a statutory 21 days within which representations may be made.

Scheme of Delegation

- 3.11 To deal with applications to close roads for special events in a timely fashion, it is suggested that the Scheme of Delegation be amended such that the exercise of the following functions, in line with relevant Council policies, is delegated to the Director of Planning and Place:
- 3.12 Exercising all powers in relation to the making of an Order restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connection with special events, excluding provisions relating to:
- applications for an Order where adverse representations are received,
 - the recovery of costs incurred by the Council as a consequence of making an Order, and
 - such other matters as the Director deems appropriate.
- 3.13 Members are advised that the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the making of an Order restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connection with special events will remain with the Committee.
- 3.14 Any decision of the Committee in relation to policy and legislation concerning licensing matters must be ratified by Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.15 There will be direct financial costs attached to the administration of the new legislation and, whilst such costs may be recovered from applicants, decisions in relation to the extent of public notification required and the fee charging option chosen will determine the actual financial implication. This will be determined by the Licensing Committee.
- 3.16 We have not had the opportunity to factor the role and costs of administering this legislation into our budget for the financial year 2017–2018.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.17 We had previously assessed the equality and good relations implications with the introduction of the legislation and liaised with the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer to ensure all

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potential issues are appropriately addressed. We will continue to do this.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that it would, in due course, receive further reports on fee setting and governance arrangements.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 20th June, 2017

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

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

Apologies

Apologies were reported from Councillors Bunting and Carson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 16th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st June, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Armitage declared an interest regarding item 7.d) LA04/2016/2291/RM - 22 apartments across 3 blocks (4 storey buildings) with a new access to Dundela Avenue and associated site works including boundary wall and fence at the former training ground for Dundela Football club, in that he talked to residents regarding the application, however, he indicated that, during those discussions he had not committed himself to any particular course of action in relation to the application.

Regarding item 7.a) (Reconsidered Item) - LA04/2016/1158/F Change of use from post office to hot food take away at 565 Ormeau Road, Councillor Mullan, declared an interest, in so far as she had submitted an objection to the proposal and had made a representation at the Planning Committee when it had originally been considered. Councillor Mullan also declared an interest regarding item 7.m) LA04/2016/0041/F - Lagan gateway project, in that she had originally proposed this project at the South Area Working Group and sat on the board of the Lagan Boat Trust.

Regarding item 7.g) LA04/2016/1834/F - Development of a 3G sports pitch, surrounding security fence and floodlighting at Malone Integrated College, Councillor Mullan declared an interest, in so far as she arranged a meeting between the residents and the applicant, however, she indicated that she had not committed herself to any particular course of action in relation to the application. She also declared an interest in

item 7. m) LA04/2016/0041/F, in that she had recently been appointed to the Lagan Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee.

Additional Item - Update on Status of Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Director of Planning and Place tabled the following status update on the Belfast Metropolitan Plan:

BMAP – Belfast City Council Planning Position

In the intervening period between the last Planning Committee and this, the adopted Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP) has been quashed as a result of a judgement in the Court of Appeal delivered on 18th May, 2017.

As a consequence of this, the Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 (BUAP) is now the statutory development plan for the area.

Section 45 (1) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 requires regard to be had to the Development Plan, so far as material to the application and to any other material considerations. Section 6 (4) states that where regard is to be had to the Development Plan, the determination must be made in accordance with the Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Public Inquiry into the draft published in 2004 ran from April 2007 – May 2008. The PAC report into the draft Plan and the adoption Statement is also publicly available.

In general the weight that should be given to draft policy increases as it approaches the date of final publication. It is the view that the draft BMAP, in its most recent, post-examination, form continues to exist. As the decision to adopt the BMAP has been quashed in its entirety, it is as though the draft BMAP has never been adopted. The Executive could if it wished take further steps to adopt the BMAP, but until it does so the draft BMAP remains the most advanced and up to date collection of development management policies for the City Council's area, albeit that those policies do not carry the statutory force conferred upon an adopted statutory development plan by the 2011 Act.

The policies in the version of draft BMAP which was purported to be adopted and not the one published in 2004 should be given considerable weight because the content of the draft BMAP has now reached the stage of being approved, subject to various amendments, following its examination. The draft BMAP is at the furthest possible stage that any draft development plan could have reached without being formally adopted.

The version of draft BMAP which was purported to be adopted and not the one published in 2004 should be given substantial weight together with and in consideration of all other material matters.

Applications will be recommended on the above basis and in light of on-going advice from the City Solicitor.

Noted.

Notice of Motion - Developers' Contributions

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 Garrett and seconded by Councillor McAteer, to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

The Director of Planning and Place advised that the issues outlined in the Notice of Motion would be considered as part of the draft Section 76 Framework which would be brought to Committee for consideration in due course. He advised that this would include the restrictions and flexibility in applying potential developer contribution agreements.

Committee Site Visit

Pursuant to its decision of 16th May, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 14th June in respect of planning application LA04/2016/0051/F - Residential building consisting of six apartments at 82 Eglantine Avenue.

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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.

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 8th May and 9th June, 2017.

Departmental Performance Update

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

Planning Applications

- 146 applications had been validated in May, 2017; and
- Overall numbers of applications validated this year had decreased by 21% (331 since 1st April, 2017 compared to 417 in 2016).

Planning Decisions

- 160 decisions had been issued in May, 2017 (150 in May, 2016).
- 96% approval rate;
- 94% decisions had been issued under delegated authority; and

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 990 live applications were in the system at end of May, 2017;
- 59% of applications were in the system for less than 6 months; and
- 23 legacy applications were outstanding (reduced from 780 at transfer in April, 2015).

Performance against statutory targets (un-validated management information)

- The statutory target for processing major development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was within an average of 30 weeks. In quarter 4 (1st January – 30th April, 2017) the average processing time to decide major applications was 29.8. This, however, included legacy applications and those Major applications which had been delayed whilst a Section 76 agreement had been put in place;
- Excluding those applications requiring a Section 76 agreement, the average processing time for major applications between 1st January and 31st March was 22 weeks;
- The statutory target for processing local development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal

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date was an average of 15 weeks. In quarter 4, the average processing time to decide local applications was 18.2 weeks; and

- The statutory target was that 70% of all enforcement cases are progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. In quarter 4, 2017, 68.8% of enforcement cases had been concluded within 39 weeks.

The Committee noted the report and the methodology behind the figures reported.

Proposed Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposed Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at:

- Marquis Street;
- Academy Street;
- Glenwood Green;
- Hannahstown Hill; and
- The Manor, Blacks Road.

Noted.

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 building by the Department for Communities:

- 8 Bladon Park, BT9 5LH;
- 14-16 Bladon Park, BT9 5LH; and
- 34 Windsor Park, BT9 6FQ.

**Department for Infrastructure Performance Framework –
Response to consultation**

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

The Director of Planning and Place advised that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) was consulting the eleven councils on a new Performance Management Framework

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for Planning in Northern Ireland. He provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed draft Performance Management Framework (copy available on the Council's website [here](#)) and advised that it had recommended that 20 new performance indicators be implemented across the following areas:

- i) Plan making;
- ii) Efficiency;
- iii) Quality;
- iv) Engagement;
- v) Enforcement;
- vi) Strategic Planning Division; and
- vii) Outcomes.

He advised that it was evident that a more measured approach was needed to be taken by DfI to assess planning performance across the 11 councils, and the new performance framework should operate in tandem with the development of the Council's own detailed performance management strategy for planning applications, including internal Key Performance Indicators.

He outlined the draft consultation response as follows:

Belfast City Council's Planning Committee has considered the draft Planning Performance Management Framework (the Framework) and comments as follows.

The Council welcomes the introduction of a performance management framework for planning in Northern Ireland. It will help focus on performance and improve service delivery across the region, whilst providing a useful benchmark across the 11 councils.

I attach a copy of the report to the Planning Committee when the matter was discussed. (copy available on the Council's website [here](#)),

The report contains a range of detailed points and forms part of the Council's formal response to the Framework in conjunction with this letter.

The Council wishes to make the following particular points about the Framework.

1. Bench-marking of performance (PI3-PI6 and PI16) – the Council strongly objects to the setting of standards around these indicators at this time. It should be for each council to decide what “good performance” looks like. A balance needs to be struck between speed of decision and the quality of service to the customer, and quality of the final decision. A complete focus on speed of decision can drive perverse behaviour which can be detrimental to quality and cause frustration to customers.

This was the experience of many councils in England during the 2000s when the Government awarded Planning Delivery Grant to local planning authorities for achieving targets on the speed of decision for applications. DCLG in England has since moved away from this narrow focus and quality of customer service has become much more important. Hence the introduction of the ability to agree an extension of the determination period with the applicant. The Council supports the principle that performance indicators should be “measures” and not “targets”.

Planning services in Northern Ireland are also still in transition. Councils are significantly disadvantaged by the limitations of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal which prevents the collection of detailed Key Performance Indicators which are otherwise essential for effective performance management. The Planning Portal is at least two generations behind the latest planning software used in others parts of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. It is imperative that the Portal is replaced with a fit for purpose system as soon as possible. Councils are also limited by existing planning legislation such as the inability to legally invalidate an application if all the information necessary to determine an application is not provided at the beginning of the planning application process. The Department clearly recognises this as an issue through Performance Indicator 17 (Strategic Planning Division) because achievement of the 30-week target is dependent on no further environmental information being required once the application has been submitted.

2. Categorisation of planning applications – the Council recommends that applications are divided into three categories rather than the two pre-existing categories. A third category should be added to include small-scale proposals such as householder applications, Advertisement Consents, Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Consents. This will measure performance on small-scale, high volume applications which are critical to overall application performance. This also reflects the approach taken in England and Wales which have three categories of application.

3. Ability to agree an extension of time with the applicant – a complete focus on speed of decision is inappropriate and can lead to perverse behaviour. Councils should have the ability to agree an extension of time with the applicant so that issues can be worked through without the pressure to make a quick decision to meet targets. This is the approach taken in England and Wales and works very well. Councils should also be measured on the proportion (%) of applications determined within 30 and 15 weeks like in England and Wales. This helps to provide a more rounded picture of performance and links in with the ability to agree an extension of the determination period with the applicant. In measuring application performance, the Department

should also exclude those applications requiring a Section 76 Planning Agreement.

In addition to these comments, a range of more detailed points are provided in the attached report which forms part of the Council's response to the Framework.

The Director noted that DfI intended to publish performance on a quarterly basis. He advised that the performance returns set out in the final Framework should not be published and it should be for individual councils to decide how they present the performance returns.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the submission of the outlined consultation response to the Department for Infrastructure with the additional point outlined by the Director of Planning and Place as set out above.

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

Preferred Options Paper Public Consultation (Restricted)

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

The Committee considered the Preferred Options Paper (POP) Public Consultation Report which provided an overview of the POP Consultation and Engagement Process, how it was executed, together with the results of the consultation.

The committee was informed that the completion of the Public Consultation Report marked a significant milestone in the Local Development Plan preparation through the completion of the preferred options stage of the plan.

The Committee agreed to:

- endorse the response to the consultations, as set out in the Draft Preferred Options Paper (POP) Public Consultation Report (Appendix 1), as the basis for the formal publication document; and
- delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Place, in consultation with the Legal Services, to make any necessary amendments.

The Committee also noted the next stages in the Local Development Plan process.

(Councillor Hussey returned to the Committee table at this point)

Local Development Plan - Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group

The Committee was reminded that all Councils across Northern Ireland were currently preparing Local Development Plans (LDPs) and a number of councils had already published Preferred Options Papers (POPs). Whilst each council was the

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planning authority for its own area and was responsible for preparing its LDP, there were common or shared issues faced by councils.

It was reported that the common issues had either a sub-regional dimension, generally affecting all councils across the metropolitan area, or cross boundary implications, and continued engagement was required throughout all stages of the LDP process to support a joined-up and sustainable approach.

The Committee was informed that Department for Infrastructure guidance suggested that collaboration between councils in plan-making was important to the soundness of each LDP, which would be assessed through the independent examination procedure, therefore it was recommended to establish a working group across the four councils in the metropolitan area to support the ongoing LDP process, in an advisory capacity. It was envisaged that this would provide a mechanism to share information and seek, as far as possible, to agree a common approach to LDP policies, objectives and proposals, in an effort to minimise the potential for conflict between individual LDPs.

It was suggested that the Working Group should include Members and officers and it was anticipated that the participation in such arrangements would demonstrate that the new Belfast LDP could meet the consistency test of soundness.

The Committee agreed to:

- the establishment of the proposed Working Group linked to the work of the Local Development Plan and covering the five planning authority areas in the Metropolitan area; and
- nominate the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) to serve on the proposed Working Group, supported by Council officers.

The Committee also noted that the draft Terms of Reference would be considered at the first working group meeting (copy available on the Council's website [here](#)) and that updates and decisions made by the group would be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

(Councillor Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point)

Withdrawn Item

The Committee noted that Item 8.e) Planning Advertisements, had been withdrawn.

Planning Applications

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

(Reconsidered Item) - LA04/2016/1158/F - Change of use from a Post Office to hot food take away at 565 Ormeau Road

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Dorrian and McDonough-Brown took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 14th March when it had originally been considered).

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The Committee was reminded that the application had been originally presented to the Planning Committee on 14th March and had been deferred so that a site visit could be undertaken and also for the following information to be submitted from Transport NI:

1. an accident /safety report; and
2. a traffic/congestion report

The case officer highlighted that the additional information received from Transport NI concluded that it would appear that the “traffic issue history” in this area might have been related to the concentration of vehicles arriving and departing to and from Wellington College. As such, it was considered that the operational times of the applicants proposed business would not have a significant impact during the already congested school drop-off and collection periods.

He informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following additional objections had been received, which raised the following points:

- the impact on a supported living scheme for persons with learning disabilities as a result of traffic congestion;
- increased foot fall in the area;
- residents having difficulty in exiting driveways because of parked cars;
- local residents concerns about congestion, road safety and parking; and
- lack of residential consultation and the need to take into account local resident concerns.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

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

LA04/2016/1538/F - Residential development comprising of 9 dwellings, site access and all associated works on lands adjacent and south of 60 Distillery Street

The case officer apprised the Committee of an application for 9 dwelling units, made up of 5 houses - 2 semi-detached pairs of houses and a detached house; and an apartment block consisting of 4 apartments; and site access and all associated works.

He explained that, after assessment, it had been recommended for refusal on the grounds that the proposal was contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) and Policy QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7, ‘Quality Residential Environments’ in that, if approved, the amenity of prospective residents would be adversely affected by noise and disturbance from road traffic noise.

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He advised that the application did not state that the proposal was for Social Housing, however the Northern Ireland Housing Executive supported the application and indicated there was a need for social housing in the area. He advised that the site plans had indicated that a noise acoustic barrier of 2.4m would be erected along the northern and southern boundary of the site.

He highlighted that acoustic engineers 'Lester Acoustics' had suggested that extending the fence to also screen the gardens from traffic noise and Environmental Health remained concerned that *'the noise levels within the outside garden space was extremely high and that potential mitigation to improve the external noise climate for families occupying these four bedroomed houses had not been adequately explored'*.

The Committee received representations from Councillor Beattie. He outlined a range of objections to the case officer's recommendation for refusal. He suggested that the mitigation of noise outlined by the applicant included a pathway and a bushway could be sufficient for the development and that similar applications had previously been granted approval. He also suggested that there was a long waiting list for social housing in the area and building the development would assist with this, and also in reducing anti-social behaviour. He suggested that developing the site was crucial as the site was located at an interface.

The Committee also received representation from Mr. T. Stokes, agent, representing the applicant, Mr. F. McCann, MLA, and Ms. C. Black, Grosvenor Community Centre.

Mr. Stokes outlined a range of objections to the recommendation for refusal. He suggested that the development was for social housing and that the applicant had a great track record in the design and building of housing developments of this nature. He suggested there was a housing need in the area and the site was a vacant, derelict, brownfield site, which was currently an eyesore and attracted anti-social behaviour. He stated that the only consultee to raise objections had been Environmental Health and that the proposal included a range of noise mitigation levels such as a 2.4 metre barrier, and acoustic ventilation. He indicated that the internal noise levels would be desirable, however the external noise levels were slightly higher than recommended guidelines.

In addition, Mr. McCann explained his objections to the recommendation and suggested that the area had high social deprivation, anti-social behaviour and high unemployment in the area. He advocated that the application should be approved due to the high demand for housing and the need for redevelopment of the site. He suggested that the proposal would enhance the area and pointed out that other similar sites had been developed with this type of housing.

Ms. Black outlined a range of objections to the recommended for refusal which included the photos shown in the case officer's report not being representative of the disorder at the site, which currently attracted anti-social behaviour. She suggested that the proposed development was supported by local residents and would improve the area.

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During discussion, Members clarified points raised by the deputation regarding the height of the fence, noise mitigation, air quality, amenities in the area, health and wellbeing of proposed residents, the window openings, and ventilation system.

During further discussion, the Environmental Health Manager clarified his assessment of the proposal and stated that the submitted acoustic report had identified levels inside and outside of the dwellings which were in breach of the World Health Organisation Guidelines. He also advised that the 5 dB relaxation of the levels within the British Standard for 'necessary' and 'desirable' development were only applicable once the best technical mitigation available had been exhausted.

The case officer advised that it had not been demonstrated that a 2.4m high acoustic barrier would sufficiently mitigate noise levels. He informed the Committee that the barrier might need to be higher and this would be an operational development that might require a separate planning application.

The Director of Planning and Place highlighted that the Committee must make its decision based on the information which had been provided.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Garrett, and
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the noise mitigation, agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable the applicant to provide more information on noise levels and to clarify the proposed mitigation measures. The Committee also agrees to undertake a site visit to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Johnston, and
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the Committee agrees to refuse the application for the reason as set out in the case officer's report.

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

LA04/2016/0487/F - Change of use from dwelling to coffee shop, single storey side and rear extension at 1 St. Agnes Drive, Andersonstown Road

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

The case officer outlined the proposed planning application for the change of use of the ground floor of a dwelling to a coffee shop with first floor store, incorporating a single storey extension to the side and rear of the premises.

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He advised that the site was zoned as Whiteland with no designated use in the Belfast Urban Area Plan, 2001 and the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015.

The Committee received representations from Mrs. C. Webb, Mr. J. Webb and Mr. C. Kelly, on behalf of residents and business owners in the area. Mrs. Webb outlined a range of objections to the proposal which related to the street being residential and not commercial, together with the effect on car parking and road safety. She suggested that as she lived in the neighbouring property to the proposed development, it would have a detrimental impact on her family life and the proposed change of use to a commercial premises was unacceptable.

Mr. Webb suggested that the proposal would affect his family's privacy, car parking, increase accidents, and had the potential to increase anti-social behaviour.

Mr. Kelly suggested that there were too many cafés in the area and that another coffee shop would affect the existing businesses, employment, and the work his business carried out for the homeless.

In addition, Councillor Groves explained her objections to the proposal which included the number of objections received, the street being too narrow for a commercial entity, and the adverse effect the proposal would have on car parking and traffic in the area. She suggested that the footfall of potential customers for the intended business was low and raised concerns regarding the control of what the building might be used for, if it was granted commercial use.

The Committee received representations from Ms. J. Morgan, Arabica Investments, and Mr. T. McCooley, on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Morgan outlined a range of support for the application which included the consideration given to the location for over two years, the reassurance to residents to cultivate a local network and the potential employment of 20 staff via the youth employment scheme. She pointed out that they had a similar business on the Lisburn Road which had received no complaints from the neighbouring residents, and were willing to work through any issues raised with the residents and local communities, if required.

The Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding car parking and the impact on residential amenity, agreed 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.

The Committee also noted that the Planning Policy regarding commercial premises on residential streets would be circulated to the Committee.

(Alderman McGimpsey returned to the Committee table at this point)

**LA04/2016/2291/RM - 22 apartments across 3 blocks (4 storey buildings)
with a new access to Dundela Avenue and associated site works including a
boundary wall and fence at former training ground for Dundela Football Club**

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

The case officer advised that a previous outline application (Ref: Z/2014/0271/F) which related to this application was granted approval (subject to conditions) by the

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Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) following an appeal and was the subject of a Section 76 agreement, which related to ground improvement works to be carried out at Dundela Football Club.

She highlighted that an additional condition regarding internal noise was also required, in addition to those outlined in the case officer's report.

The Committee received representations from Mr. I. Mennie and Ms. S. Mageean, on behalf of residents. Mr. Mennie outlined a range of objections to the proposal which related to residents not being made aware of the requirement to submit new objections to the second application, the detrimental impact on residents, the building being excessive in height, the density of the development, and the site being situated on Oakland Avenue. He suggested that the design of the proposal was too close to the road side, would create a tunnel effect for existing residents, and that more sympathetic material could have been used in the design. He suggested that the proposal would affect road safety, car parking, add congestion, and that there had been no contact between the developer and residents.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Armitage, and
Seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the loss of light, height and access points of the proposal, together with the potential to add to the congestion of the area, agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable the Committee to undertake a site visit to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Alderman McGimpsey, and
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

That the Committee, agrees to approve the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

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

The Committee also noted that clarification would be provided to the Committee regarding the principles of Reserved Matters applications.

(Councillor Garrett returned to the Committee table at this point)

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

LA04/2016/2219/F Refurbishment and alterations to primary school including 2 single storey rear extensions and 2 storey rear extension. Construction of double nursery school building, car parking, landscaping, fencing and siteworks. at Elmgrove Primary School (Avoniel Site) and Nursery Unit Avoniel Road

(Councillor McDonough-Brown had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since it was a major application, but also that the Council owned part of the land.

During discussion, the issue of applying cladding to buildings was raised. The Director advised that this was dealt with by Building Regulations, and that this was not in the remit of the Planning Committee.

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

The Committee also noted that a report regarding the regulations on cladding for buildings would be submitted to a future meeting.

LA04/2016/2156/F - Temporary teaching accommodation (3 prefabricated buildings providing 6 classrooms), temporary kitchen and dining hall building, security fencing and car parking with associated site works including demolition of existing school meals building, to facilitate temporary school decant from Avoniel Road school site

The Case officer advised that the development was to facilitate the complete decant of Elmgrove Primary School, Avoniel Road site to allow the proposed refurbishment and extension to the school (LA04/2016/2219/F). She advised that the proposed temporary accommodation was required for a period of 3 years.

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

LA04/2016/1834/F - Development of a 3G sports pitch, surrounding security fence and floodlighting at Malone Integrated College

(Councillor McAteer, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

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

LA04/2016/0549/F - 70 semi-detached and townhouse dwellings with associated site works, roads, car parking and landscaping/open space provision on lands at Benview Avenue and Benview Parade to the South of Buttermilk Loney

The case officer outlined the proposal and advised that, in this case, it was considered appropriate that any planning approval should be subject to the developer entering a legal agreement to transfer the proposed area of open space in the north eastern corner of the site to Benview Community Centre. She advised that the developer had expressed a willingness and commitment to provide this in a legal agreement.

The Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions.

LA04/2015/0152/F - Proposed demolition of existing buildings to make way for a mix of 42 three bed terraced dwellings, 19 two bed apartments and 3 two bed semi-detached dwellings with a play area and open public space (62 units in total), 17c Station View

The case officer advised that the principle for housing use on the site had been established under planning application S/2006/1391/O - Redevelopment of existing light industrial lands for residential use, 142 units in 2012.

He highlighted that the Council was awaiting a full consultation response from Transport NI, subject to design amendments.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to finalise the wording of the conditions, subject to the final response being received from Transport NI.

LA04/2017/0171/F - Change of use from offices to a 37 bedroom hotel with associated restaurant, bar and ancillary facilities including a new rooftop terrace at 5 and 9-13 Waring Street

The case officer highlighted that the proposed development was situated within the development limit for Belfast City Centre, the Old City Character Area (CC09), the area of archaeological potential and the area of parking restraint (CC025).

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She advised that listed building consent had accompanied the application.

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

LA04/2017/0497/F - Change of use of existing office accommodation to provide a 30 bedroom hotel accommodation with roof extension/ roof terrace including a bar and associated screening forming an extension to the neighbouring hotel at 40a Church Lane

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

The case officer advised that the submitted Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) was currently being reviewed by Rivers Agency and their response would be reported as an update to the Committee.

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

LA04/2017/0963/LBC - Removal of existing reception counter on the ground floor City Hall main entrance rotunda area and replacing it with a memorabilia exhibition retail reception counter to the ground floor main entrance rotunda area.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted Listed Building Consent to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0041/F - Lagan gateway project: the provision of a new boat lock at Stranmillis to allow the passage of boats past the weir, new footbridge and path linking Annadale embankment with Stranmillis and paths to Belvoir Park

(Councillors McAteer and Mullan, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

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

Chairperson

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 19th June, 2017

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff, Alderman Haire; and
Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Dorrian,
Graham, Johnston, Mullan and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Ms. C. Toolan, Managing Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd;
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland and Councillor Hargey.

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

RESTRICTED ITEM

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

Year-End Finance and Performance

The Managing Director provided the Members with an update on Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.'s (BWUH Ltd) performance for Quarter 4, January – March 2017, and for the year, 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017.

She advised the Committee that this was the first year of operation for the new company, as the new Belfast Waterfront venue had only been operational from the end

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of April, 2016. It was reported that the final quarter had contributed to an excellent first year for the new business, where the financial performance had reflected a total sales income which exceeded the budget by 13%.

The Business Support Director reported that, despite several budgetary challenges, the company had generated additional revenue above its predicted budget as a result of increased sales activities and one-off savings in marketing, utilities and rates. The Managing Director, however, pointed out that the company did not expect to benefit from such savings in future years.

The Committee was advised that the surplus would be allocated to the Capital Expenditure Sinking Fund, while the final year-end figures would be subject to external audit.

The Members were advised that, by year-end, BWUH Ltd. had delivered 34 conferences, generating 51,183 delegate days, which had delivered an economic return of £20.9million for the city.

The Members were advised that the company had recently won the award for the World's Best Kentico website for the Entertainment and Hospitality sector, and had also won the award for Best Website Overall. A number of Members paid tribute to the success of the staff for their hard work in this regard.

She provided the Committee with an update on the defects with the Belfast Waterfront building, which included an ongoing issue with the heating/cooling of some of the areas in the Belfast Waterfront. The Members were advised that the issues had been raised with the contractor.

A Member requested information on any training which staff had been provided with in relation to the ongoing change within the organisation. The Managing Director provided a brief update in relation to a number of programmes which the BWUH staff had undertaken, including eighteen participants on the Leadership Programme, and agreed to submit a report to the next meeting with further detail.

The Committee noted the results of recent Mystery Shopper exercises which had been carried out in the Waterfront venue and was advised that anecdotal feedback from clients had been very positive.

In response to a Member's question regarding staff sickness levels, the Managing Director explained that a number of staff had been out of work for work related or non-work related stress and that she had held regular meetings with the Trade Unions. She advised the Members that she had been made aware of some internal staffing matters but that the Unions had raised no specific issues with her at that time.

In relation to Brexit, the Managing Director explained that the currency exchange rates had been favourable for their business thus far and that there had been no major impact on future bookings as yet, but that it remained a watching brief.

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In response to a Member's question regarding sponsorship, or naming rights, for the venue, the Managing Director advised the Committee that work was ongoing to determine if it was a viable option for the Belfast Waterfront.

A Member requested additional information on what the target market was for attracting conferences to the Belfast Waterfront. The Managing Director confirmed to the Members that there were many avenues to discover but that their current focus was on Science and Technology based conferences, as well as developing their own events and summits.

The Managing Director advised the Members that the Director of Sales and Marketing, Mrs S. McCullough, had recently been appointed as the Director of Development in Ards and North Down Borough Council and that the vacant position had recently been advertised.

The Director of Development confirmed to the Members that their attendance at events and conferences in the Belfast Waterfront and the Ulster Hall, particularly events which were sponsored by the Council, was to be encouraged.

The Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report; and
2. agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting with an update on any training which staff at the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall (BWUH) had undertaken in relation to the changes in the organisation.

Internal Audit Update

(Mr. A. Harrison, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services, and Mr. M. Whitmore, Principal Auditor, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the outcome of an internal audit review undertaken at the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall (BWUH) Ltd.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee notes the report.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 When BWUH Ltd was established a number of measures were put in place to ensure that there would be appropriate governance / oversight. This included a requirement for the

Company to have an internal audit function and an audit and risk committee.

- 3.2 The Council's Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) has fulfilled the internal audit role at the Company and has recently completed an internal audit review at the Company. This review focused on key financial controls but also examined key governance areas, such as risk and performance management.
- 3.3 The detailed audit report has now been issued and agreed with Company management and the Company's Audit & Risk Committee. The executive summary from the audit report is attached in the appendix. In summary, AGRS has been able to provide a positive assurance with the overall outcome / opinion of "some improvement needed" – the 2nd level of 4 possible levels of assurance. Management has agreed an action plan to address the issues arising from the audit and these will be tracked by the Company's Audit and Risk Panel.
- 3.4 AGRS is in the process of developing a three-year internal audit plan which is to be discussed / agreed by the Company's Audit & Risk Committee.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

None.

5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None."

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Corporate Risk Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress being made to manage the corporate risk that is of direct relevance to the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall (BWUH) Ltd Shareholders' Committee.

1.2

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the reduction in the risk evaluation for 2017/2018 and the arrangements in place to manage this risk. Committee is also asked to note the progress being made

to implement controls / measures to reduce the level of risk further and the proposed six monthly process for reporting.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Managing Corporate Risks to an Acceptable Level

The risk of particular relevance to the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall (BWUH) Ltd Shareholders' Committee is as follows:

- 3.1.1 "Inability to effectively manage business performance as set out in the contract in order to meet the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer."**

Progress in managing this risk is set out below.

3.2 Risk Assessment

- 3.2.1 Following a review of the corporate risk by the Audit Governance and Risk Service, this risk was assessed in terms of 'impact' and 'likelihood' (using the Council's risk scoring system, available on modern.gov) as follows:**

Impact – 3 (moderate)
Likelihood – 3 (possible)

- 3.2.2 This assessment reflects that ineffective performance management would have significant financial and reputational consequences. Performance management at BWUH Ltd is a key strand of the Belfast Agenda and the ability to achieve some of the anticipated strategic outcomes will require the support of key stakeholders and a number of external partners. Failure to meet agreed objectives and achieve targets would have financial consequences for the Council and impact on the rate setting process.**

- 3.2.3 The impact of this risk is currently evaluated at a 3 and whilst it is difficult to reduce the potential impact if the risk materialises, we are committed to doing all we can to reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring. The risk is subject to regular review and is updated through the Councils corporate system in line with the corporate risk manage update process.**

3.3 Current Measures in place to Manage the Risk

- 3.3.1 There are a variety of controls in place to help manage the risk:**

- Legal agreements (Shareholders Agreement and Services Contract) are in place with BWUH Ltd which were developed and finalised with independent legal advice.
- A Shareholders' Committee has been established and meets quarterly. Capacity building and induction training has been completed and the Committee is now well established. The Committee holds the BWUH Ltd to account on contract and business performance issues; they scrutinise the quarterly finance and performance reports ensuring social and financial return on the Council and other funders investments; they control and make decisions on reserved matters; authorise the annual business plan; they also agree and monitor performance framework targets, including decreasing dependency on Council subsidy. BWUH Ltd provides risk assurance on a quarterly basis to the Shareholders Committee.
- The Standing Orders have been amended to reflect the establishment of this new Committee with a review of governance arrangements taking place after 3 years.
- A Business Plan for 2016/17 was presented to and agreed at Committee in June 2016 with the 2017/18 Business Plan due to be presented at Committee in January 2017. Member briefings on the business plan were facilitated in December 2016 where the draft business plan for 2017/18 was presented and discussed with Members.
- The BWUH Ltd Board has been set up and meets bi-monthly. Capacity and induction training has been delivered to the Board. The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring the success of the BWUH Ltd and ensuring compliance with all legal and regulatory obligations; they set and monitor the strategic direction of the organisation. The Councils Chief Executive and Director of Finance sit as observers to the Board. The BWUH Board has also established its own Audit and Risk Committee of which two Board Members sit on and an external Auditor has been appointed. A Strategic Change Committee has also been established and again is governed by two Members of the Board.
- SLA's have been set up with internal BCC providers and are in operation.
- Project governance Governance arrangements were established in 2016/17, and a contract and business plan is in place which clearly sets out the expected performance of the company. Contract management and relationship management arrangements have been built in to the governance arrangements and at present BCC have sought to strike a balance between strict adherence to the contract and the need to develop relationships with the BWUH management team. At present, the governance arrangement involve monthly meeting with the SRO and senior management of

BWUH. In addition, the Councils Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance attend the BWUH Board meetings as no-voting members. A benefits realisation and governance workshop was held in January 2017 with Tourism NI and other key partners to support the delivery of the project's objectives and ensure appropriate governance with our funders going forward.

- A handover process from the SRO of the construction phase to the SRO of the operational phase has been finalised and is due at CMT for sign-off.
- A Venue Event Management System (VEMS) is now in place within BWUH Ltd and has been operational since 1st October 2017, and a time & attendance system is now also in place. These systems will support the performance of the BWUH Ltd and help inform the management of this risk.

3.3.2 An independent Gateway Review was conducted in August 2016 which provided an 'amber' assessment and made a series of recommendation. A further Gateway Review is planned for 2017.

3.3.3 The controls listed against the risk were found by the Audit Governance and Risk Service to be adequate, effective and relevant to the management of the risk.

3.4 Areas for Future Consideration

3.4.1 To ensure future management of this risk, the relationship, performance and risk management between the Council and BWUH Ltd needs to continue with the governance arrangements being reviewed as appropriate to ensure they are operating effectively. It is important the projections for future years are monitored closely and that any longer term challenges are dealt with effectively along with any future uncertainties that may arise in the market. Financial performance and future projections will be considered in terms of the potential impact on funding received for the project and any potential future financial claw back if the Letter of Offer conditions in relation to the funding are not fully met.

3.5 Progress Updates to Committee

In order to ensure that members have an understanding of the corporate risks that relate to their Committees and have clear information on how they are being managed, it is proposed that Committee is provided with a progress update reports in a further six months.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

None.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

In response to a Member's question regarding the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, the Managing Director advised the Committee of the security checks which were being carried out at the venues. She outlined that the current policy would be in place for three months and would be reviewed after that time. She also reported that all visitors, apart from those attending ticketed events, had to sign in at reception. The Members were also advised that a number of staff had recently participated in Project Griffin training, which was the national counter terrorism awareness initiative for businesses.

The Committee noted the recommendations within the report.

2017/2018 Committee Dates

The Committee agreed that meetings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Shareholders' Committee would be held at 5.15 p.m. on the following dates:

- 1st August, 2017;
- 6th November, 2017;
- 22nd January, 2018;
- 19th February, 2018; and
- 21st May, 2018 (AGM).

Chairperson