

Public Document Pack

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 4th September, 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 (Pages 1 - 22)
5. Official Announcements
6. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 23 - 56)
7. Minutes of People and Communities Committee (Pages 57 - 92)
8. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 93 - 134)
9. Minutes of Licensing Committee (Pages 135 - 158)
10. Minutes of Planning Committee (Pages 159 - 186)
11. Minutes of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 187 - 190)
12. **Notices of Motion**

- a) Mother and Baby Homes

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Councillor McVeigh,

"This Council recognises the citizens of Belfast's commitment to human rights and will support Amnesty International's call on The Northern Ireland Executive to set-up a human rights-compliant public inquiry into allegations of forced labour, arbitrary detention, ill treatment and the illegal adoption of babies in former mother and baby homes in Belfast and across the province."

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Grass Cutting on Carriageways

Proposed by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

"This Council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure, Transport Northern Ireland, to redirect resources towards grass cutting of verges, central reservations and roundabouts on our carriageways.

The present two cuts between April and September are not sufficient, bearing in mind that only a few years ago we had five and prior to that eight.

The citizens of Belfast, along with a large number of visitors, are complaining bitterly at how unsightly the capital city of Northern Ireland has become and, therefore, it is important that this important issue is acted upon as quickly as possible."

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Party Leaders' Forum

Proposed by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

"This Council calls upon the Chief Executive to submit a report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on how to ensure openness and transparency with regard to decisions taken by the Party Leaders' Forum."

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

d) Invitations to or from the President of the United States of America

Proposed by Councillor Heading,
Seconded by Councillor Milne,

"This Council reiterates that it is committed to treating everyone fairly, with equality and respect, and through doing so help our City in its transition from a period of division caused by conflict to a City that celebrates diversity and pluralism.

The Council notes the recent comments made by President Trump regarding the tragic events in Charlottesville, Virginia, their lack of clarity and his failure to condemn racist organisations such as the Klu Klux Klan and Neo Nazi gangs. While recognising with gratitude the support provided by previous American administrations, this Council believes our core values of equality and respect to be at odds with the actions and statements of the current President of the United States of America.

As such, the Council agrees to write, through its Lord Mayor and First Citizen, to the British Prime Minister to request that any invitation, present or future, to the President of the United States, Donald Trump, to visit Britain or Northern Ireland is withdrawn or excluded from consideration.

The Council is also aware that an invitation is traditionally extended to the Lord Mayor to attend the St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the White House, Washington DC, each year and requests that, in the event of this invitation being extended again in 2018 and in subsequent years, the Lord Mayor, subsequent Lord Mayors, or any other representatives of the Council, consider declining such an invitation to visit the White House or any state event at which the current US President is anticipated to be in attendance."

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Cuts to Health Budgets

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

"This Council notes that Health and Social Care Trusts have been tasked by the Department of Health to find £70 million of savings in 2017/2018 financial year and that the Belfast Trust will have to impose cuts of £26.3 million.

The Council expresses its deep concern at the effect which these proposed cuts will have on domiciliary care, elective care services, nursing and residential homes, the deferral of drug treatments and cuts in agency staff. The Council believes that these cuts will have a devastating impact on the sick, elderly and most vulnerable sections of our community in Belfast.

The Council strenuously opposes these cuts and agrees to write to and seek urgent meetings with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Permanent Secretary in the Department of Health."

(To be debated by the Council)


f) Opposition to Britain First Organisation

Proposed by Councillor Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

"This Council notes recent attempts by Britain First to organise in Belfast. The Council condemns Britain First for its far-right ideas and is opposed to its attempts to organise here. The city of Belfast has a proud history of anti-racism and anti-fascism. Unfortunately, Belfast has seen a worrying rise of racist incidents in recent years. The establishment of far-right organisations such as Britain First will embolden those who espouse such racism. The Council pledges to stand by its minority communities and against those who wish to promote division and hatred."

(To be debated by the Council)

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

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

Chief Executive

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Saturday, 1st July, 2017
at the hour of 10.45 o'clock a.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 Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Corr-Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, McReynolds, Newton, Nicholl and Reynolds.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen Brown, McGimpsey and McKee and Councillors Long, Mullan and O'Neill.

Battle of the Somme Anniversary

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

Resolved – That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the 101st Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36th (Ulster) Division, the 16th (Irish) Division and other forces who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their people and whose heroism will never be forgotten.

The Council stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to all those who had lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd July, 2017
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

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

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland), Alderman Browne and Councillors Beattie, Johnston, Kyle and Long.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister),
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Council of 1st June and the special meeting of the Council of 6th June be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor McReynolds, who had replaced the former Councillor Jones, to his first meeting of the Council and welcomed also Councillor Carson, following his return from surgery.

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

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended her deepest condolences to the families of those people who had lost their lives as a result of the recent fire in the Grenfell Tower in London.

Change of Membership on Committees and Outside Bodies

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

Alliance Party

- Councillor Nicholl to replace Councillor McDonough-Brown on the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited Shareholders' Committee;
- Councillor Howard to replace Councillor Armitage on the Licensing Committee;
- Councillor Armitage to replace Councillor O'Neill on the People and Communities Committee;
- Councillors McDonough-Brown and O'Neill to replace the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and former Councillor Jones on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and
- Councillor McReynolds to replace former Councillor Jones on the Licensing and People and Communities Committees.

Democratic Unionist Party

- Alderman Kingston to replace Alderman Spence on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- Councillors Craig and Hussey to replace Aldermen McCoubrey and Sandford on the Licensing Committee;
- Alderman Spence to replace Councillor Hussey on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- Councillor Dorrian to replace Councillor Newton on the George Best City Airport Forum;
- Councillor Hussey to replace Alderman Spence on Visit Belfast;
- Alderman McCoubrey to replace Alderman McKee on the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership; and
- Alderman Kingston to replace Alderman McCoubrey on the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

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

The Council approved the changes.

Requests to Address the Council

Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from a representative of the organisation Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse to address the Council in the context of the motion which Councillor Heading would be proposing later in the meeting on the Historical Institutional Child Abuse Inquiry.

The Council agreed to accede to the request and Mr. C. Glass, Ms. M. McGuckian and Ms. U. McNeice were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

Ms. McGuckian informed the Council that Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse was a mutual support and campaign group of survivors and victims of institutional abuse in Northern Ireland. She explained that it was now some six months since the findings of Judge Hart's Historical Institutional Child Abuse Inquiry had been presented to the Executive Office and voiced her concern at its delay in implementing the resulting recommendations. The Inquiry, she pointed out, had identified a failure by the government, churches, charities and other bodies to provide a duty of care to those young people who had been subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse in many institutions across Northern Ireland. She highlighted the significant issues which the majority of those young people had faced later in their life and urged the Council, as a matter of urgency, to lobby the Northern Ireland Assembly to progress Judge Hart's recommendations or, in the absence of the Assembly, to request the Secretary of State to introduce legislation to establish a redress scheme for victims of institutional abuse.

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

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

Crumlin Star Football Club

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. E. Hawkins, Chairman of Crumlin Star Football Club, to address the Council in relation to the People and Communities Committee's decision of 13th June to refuse the club's request to use the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields as its home venue.

The Council agreed to receive Mr. Hawkins and he was admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Hawkins informed the Council that Crumlin Star Football Club, which had been formed in 1947, was one of the oldest clubs in North Belfast and fielded teams of all ages, across a number of leagues. He explained that, for more than ten years, the club had been working with the Council to secure a suitable pitch in the City on which to play its home games. He highlighted a number of venues in North Belfast which had been considered during that time but which, for various reasons, were unavailable, with the result that the club had been forced to travel to Larne to fulfil its home fixtures. In order to address the issue, it had, in 2016,

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

sought the Council's approval to play its home games on the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields in South Belfast, which had generated adverse publicity, particularly within social media, and had damaged the good reputation of the club.

He drew the Council's attention to a report which had, on several occasions, been presented to the People and Communities Committee, which had stated that funding of £50,000 would be required to upgrade the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields to Intermediate League standards and that it would be necessary to construct a pathway, at a cost of £10,000, around the perimeter of the pitch. He pointed out that a response from the Council to a Freedom of Information request on expenditure by the Council on similar pitches across the City had, in the club's opinion, proven that the proposed cost of upgrading the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields was excessive and had not been researched fully. The response had indicated also that none of those pitches had had to have a pathway constructed around them as a condition of their use. He added that the aforementioned Committee report had stated also that the Irish Football Association was in the process of reviewing the criteria governing the use of Intermediate League grounds, however, he confirmed that had yet to be completed, which was further adding to the club's difficulties in securing a pitch in Belfast.

Mr. Hawkins informed the Council that it had been stated within meetings of the People and Communities Committee, and through other sources, that Crumlin Star Football Club would be required to make some level of investment in the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields. He pointed out that that was not the case and drew the Council's attention to a further response to a Freedom of Information request which had indicated clearly that the Council had funded upgrades to a number of other pitches across the City, without the need for a contribution from any of the clubs using them. He concluded by refuting assertions which had been made around, for example, increased traffic and disruption in the vicinity of Strangford Avenue on match days and the erection of high level fencing around the pitch and urged the Council to refer the matter back to the People and Communities Committee to allow the club's request to be considered in further detail.

The Lord Mayor thanked Mr. Hawkins for his contribution and he retired from the meeting.

The Council noted the information which had been provided and that it would have an opportunity to discuss the matter further later in the meeting, whilst the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee were being considered.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd June be approved and adopted.

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

Exclusion of the Press and Public from the Meeting

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Council Hargey,

That the Council agrees not to exclude the press and public from the meeting whilst the minute of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd June, under the heading “Bonfire Inter-Agency Working”, was being considered.

On a recorded vote, thirty-four Members voted for the amendment and nineteen against and it was declared carried.

<u>For 34</u>	<u>Against 19</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Bell, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Newton and Reynolds.

Prior to the minute being considered, the Chief Executive reminded the Council that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 23rd June, had agreed that she should lead an investigation and full review, with independent input, into the issue of the collection and storage of bonfire material and the future approach to bonfires across the City.

Accordingly, she declared an interest in this matter and left the Council Chamber whilst it was under discussion and was replaced by the City Solicitor.

Amendment

Bonfire Inter-Agency Working

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey and

Resolved - That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd June, under the heading “Bonfire Inter-Agency Working”, be amended to provide for the adoption of the following Terms of Reference for the investigation and full review, led by the Chief

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

Executive, with independent input, being undertaken into the issue of the collection and storage of bonfire material and the future approach to bonfires across the City:

“The investigation is to be established under the direction of the Chief Executive, with independent assessment of the evidence and assurance to be given by an individual or individuals who may issue directions with regard to the production of documents and who may request direct interviews with any party having a role or interest in any matter relevant to the investigation. The independent element of the investigation will not be simply to review statements and other material but also to issue direction, based on their evidentiary and public interest disclosure role and to engage directly with the process in respect of the key issues relevant to the investigation, subject to the agreement of the Chief Executive. Prior to appointment of the independent element of the investigation, the Chief Executive will consult Party Group Leaders.

The investigation will report through a restricted report to be tabled for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting in September. Issues relating to restriction of the report or information to be placed in the public domain can be considered post Council meeting.

Without prejudice to the generality of the above, the investigation will include consideration of the following themes and documents:

1. Context

The historical development of bonfire interventions and community engagement in respect of bonfire sites to include specific consideration of the sites identified in these terms of reference.

2. Vires and Governance

An examination of the legal powers with regard to intervention and management at bonfire sites. Governance arrangements for dealing with bonfire issues to include internal and external fora for development and implementation of policies and strategies and political involvement.

3. Facts

An examination of how the decisions came to be made, who they were made by, who was consulted, who agreements were made with and what those agreements stated. This will be supported by a full chronology of the events and will reference the circumstances in which decisions were made. This will include a

review of all correspondence, emails and other material relevant to the decisions in question from officers, external parties/agencies or any other source.

An examination of the circumstances under which the theft of pallets took place from Council controlled property and details of any associated investigation.

4. Internal Communications

The investigation will consider internal communications arrangements and the control and use of information relating to the issues under consideration. In particular the investigation will consider communications with members and correspondence in whatever form between officers to establish the level of knowledge on relevant issues against a timeline and reporting opportunities.

5. Decision-Making

Insofar as is not captured in terms of the preceding criteria, the investigation will look at the decision making context to establish if there were any deficiencies and those matters which were active in terms of the key decisions made by officers. The investigation will also consider information from other agencies which may have influenced decision making and any relevant history concerning the sites in question.

6. Costs

The costs of removal, transport and storing the material will be established together with any consequential or employee costs in respect of the sites relevant to this investigation.

7. Future Arrangements

The report may also make recommendations to improve governance, communication and to assist in defining the proper limits of delegation in respect of the Council's involvement and management with bonfire sites.

Evidence/Public Interest Disclosures

The Council will establish a mechanism for staff who may wish to make disclosures, to either do so anonymously or directly, to the individual or individuals appointed to act as the independent element of the investigation. In the first instance, such disclosures will be in writing/email and may be made within a defined period of time so as not to prejudice the established timeline for

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

reporting. The Council undertakes that the identity of any such individuals will be made known only to the independent element of the investigation.

Status of the Investigation

The purpose of the investigation is to establish the circumstances under which the decisions referred to came to be made. No witness is compellable and those who do provide information or engage with the investigation process may be entitled to representation or the assistance of a Trade Union Official or lawyer. Any report of the investigation identifying individuals will be restricted and the information contained therein will be treated as confidential. If required, future decisions on disciplinary action will be taken in accordance the Council's Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure and, accordingly, this issue falls outside the remit of this investigation."

(At this point, the Chief Executive resumed her seat in the Council Chamber.)

Amendment

Year End Management Accounts

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd June, under the heading "Year End Management Accounts", be amended to provide that the £45,000 of the remaining capital underspend of £208,000 set aside for reserves be allocated instead to the Amateur Boxing Strategy.

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

<u>For 33</u>	<u>Against 18</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Bell, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Newton and Reynolds.

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

--	--

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd June were approved and adopted.

Amendments to Standing Orders

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh and

Resolved - That the Council agrees to confirm the amendments to Standing Orders, as agreed by the Council in ratifying the minutes of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May, subject to the omission of the amendment to Standing Order 47, which was rescinded by the Committee at its meeting on 23rd June.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Alderman McKee,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 13th June be approved and adopted.

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

Crumlin Star Re: Strangford Avenue

Councillor McCabe requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute under the heading "Crumlin Star Re: Strangford Avenue" being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson declined the request.

Amendment

Crumlin Star Re: Strangford Avenue

Moved by Councillor McCabe,
Seconded by Councillor Clarke,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 13th June, under the heading "Crumlin Star Re: Strangford Avenue", be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

On a recorded vote, twenty-four Members voted for the amendment and twenty-eight against and it was declared lost.

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

<u>For 24</u>	<u>Against 28</u>
Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Austin, Bell, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McVeigh, Mullan, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Newton, Nicholl, O'Neill and Reynolds.

Update on Boxing Strategy

At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee outlining the level of support being provided within the Boxing Strategy to those clubs in the City which were affiliated to the Northern Ireland Boxing Association.

Update on Changing Places Facilities

The Council agreed, at the request of Alderman McKee, that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee providing an update on the proposal within the Capital Programme to provide a changing places facility in the City Hall and examining the possibility of developing similar facilities at other locations throughout the City centre.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing additions, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 13th June were approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 14th June be approved and adopted.

Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan

Prior to this minute being considered, those Members of the Planning Committee who were present withdrew from the meeting until the matter had been concluded, on the basis of advice which they had received previously from the City Solicitor around a related planning application.

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

Amendment

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

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 14th June, under the heading "Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan", be rejected and accordingly that no outline planning application be submitted until the Committee has been provided with details of the housing levels to be included within the mixed-use development.

On a recorded vote, nineteen Members voted for the amendment and twenty against and it was declared lost.

<u>For 19</u>	<u>Against 20</u>
Councillors Attwood, Austin, Bell, Campbell, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Magennis, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McVeigh, Milne, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, McKee, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dudgeon, Graham, Howard, McReynolds, Newton, Nicholl and Reynolds.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 14th June were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 21st June, 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 20th June, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

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

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 19th June be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Dog-Friendly Badging Scheme

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McDonough-Brown proposed:

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McVeigh.

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

Donations to Political Parties

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Milne.

At the request of Councillor Hargey, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to provide for the inclusion of the words "from £500 upwards" after the word "donations" in the penultimate line.

Amendment

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the motion under the heading "Donations to Political Parties, as proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor Milne, as amended, be amended further to provide that the Council calls upon the

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

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to introduce the same donations regime as that which operates in Great Britain.

On a recorded vote, eighteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-one against and it was declared lost.

<u>For 18</u>	<u>Against 31</u>
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire), Aldermen Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Newton and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Bell, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Cladding on Flats and High Rise Buildings

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

“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.”

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

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

Historical Institutional Child Abuse Inquiry

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

“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 Anthony 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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McReynolds.

The Council agreed, at the request of the proposer, to amend the final paragraph of the motion to provide for the Council to write also to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

At the request of Councillor Hargey, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to include the words “in consultation with the victims and survivors” at the end of the final paragraph.

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

The Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 47(a) 2 (c), that its decision should not be subject to the call-in process, on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

Opposition to Weapons Manufacture in Belfast

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

“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,

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

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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

At the request of Councillor McVeigh, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to provide for the deletion of everything after the words “Department for the Economy” in the final paragraph and the insertion of the following: “seeking a meeting to discuss how we might help the companies concerned to contribute to a more sustainable economy.”

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

<u>For 19</u>	<u>Against 20</u>
Councillors Attwood, Austin, Bell, Campbell, Clarke, Collins, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, O’Hara and Walsh.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Howard, Hussey, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Newton, Nicholl and Reynolds.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017
at the hour of 6.30 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Notice.

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

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Requests to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from a number of broadcasting companies to film the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the requests.

Notice of Motion

Removal of Bonfire Materials

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

“This Council gives permission to our Council officers to remove bonfire materials or employ contractors to facilitate the removal of bonfire materials from Council sites and other sites which belong to Statutory Agencies and those which are in private ownership.”

**Special Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017**

Prior to addressing the Council, the proposer sought its approval to alter his motion to provide for the deletion of everything after the words "This Council" and the insertion of the following:

"is opposed to bonfires where they present a threat to life, to property, to the environment, where they cause damage to public amenities and where they facilitate hate crime activities.

On the basis of these concerns, this Council gives permission to our Council officers to remove bonfire materials or employ contractors to facilitate the removal of bonfire materials from Council sites and other sites which belong to Statutory Agencies and those which are in private ownership."

The Council declined his request.

On a recorded vote, thirty-two Members voted to accept the revised wording and twenty-one against and it was declared carried.

<u>For 32</u>	<u>Against 21</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.

The motion, as altered, was seconded by Councillor Hargey.

Councillor Collins requested that the proposer amend his motion to provide for the insertion of the following wording between the first and second paragraphs:

"In the event of Belfast City Council acting to remove bonfire material, the Council urges officers to engage in a community consultation, which would include a survey of local residents of the affected areas and take into consideration the opinions of trades unions which represent Council staff affected, in order to ensure support and cohesion for these efforts."

The Chief Executive explained that the proposed amendment could incur additional expenditure for the Council in terms of the requirement to undertake a community consultation process for each bonfire.

**Special Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017**

Accordingly, the Lord Mayor ruled that, under the provisions of Standing Order 13 (I), the proposed amendment was not competent.

Amendment

Moved by Alderman R. Patterson,
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

That the motion standing in the name of Councillor McVeigh, as altered, be amended to provide for the deletion of everything after the words "This Council" and the insertion of the following: "in the interest of transparency, requires the review of the bonfire programme to be completed and published before further consideration is given as to whether bonfire materials should be removed from any bonfire sites with local agreement."

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

At the request of Councillor Long, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to include the following wording at the end of the final paragraph: "Any new policy should be considered through the upcoming review, with the Committee process respected, and that this review should take account of other parallel processes."

Accordingly, on a vote by show of hands thirty-one Members voted for the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Hargey, as amended, and twenty-one against and it was declared carried:

"This Council is opposed to bonfires where they present a threat to life, to property, to the environment, where they cause damage to public amenities and where they facilitate hate crime activities.

On the basis of these concerns, this Council gives permission to our Council officers to remove bonfire materials or employ contractors to facilitate the removal of bonfire materials from Council sites and other sites which belong to Statutory Agencies and those which are in private ownership.

Any new policy should be considered through the upcoming review, with the Committee process respected, and that this review should take account of other parallel processes."

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 18th August, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen Convery, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Graham,
Hutchinson, Long, McCabe, McDonough-Brown,
McVeigh, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also Attended: Councillor Heading.

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; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Attwood and Craig.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd July.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Howard declared an interest in respect of Item 3(a) Addressing Inequalities through Lifelong Learning in that she was a member of the Belfast Strategic Partnership Lifelong Learning Group. Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in the same item insofar as he was on the Board of GEMS NI. Both Members remained in the meeting whilst the item was under discussion.

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of these items as, due to the nature of the items, that there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42 (4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Development of the Council's Medium Term
Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 and the Rate
Setting Process for 2018/19**

The Council considered a report which provided an update on the assessment of the key financial factors which would influence the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018/19 – 2020/21 and the timetable for the Rate Setting Process for 2018/19.

The report highlighted the current financial position and the financial pressures arising, the main uncontrollable costs risks and other external uncontrollable costs.

The Committee noted the update on the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan and timetable for the rates setting process for 2018/19.

**Proposed restructuring/transfer
of the Fleet Management Unit**

The Committee was reminded that the Fleet Management Unit was part of the Facilities Management Section, which currently formed part of the Property and Projects Department. The Fleet Unit procured, managed, maintained, repaired and disposed of all the vehicles comprising the Council's fleet which was currently 379 assets, valued at nearly £12 million.

The Fleet Unit provided an in-house workforce to carry out the servicing, maintenance and repair of the Council's fleet assets and was based in the Duncrue Complex. All HGV and LGV maintenance was carried out in-house, although the unit made regular use of the private sector for specific types of work, most notably warranty or specialist work, and also used the private sector on an occasional basis at times of peak service demand due to pressure of work arising in respect of important and high-profile public services such as domestic refuse collection and street cleansing where work was often time-critical.

The Director of Property and Projects submitted a report on the proposed restructuring/transfer of the new unit which had been prepared following the Update on Organisational Design paper which had been adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 19th May. He reminded the Members that the Committee had already committed to a substantial efficiency programme in respect of rate-borne revenue expenditure for the next two financial years in order to assist in resourcing other Council priorities. The report sought to assist in the delivery of those overall efficiency targets, while at the same time providing necessary operational and service improvements within the Fleet Unit, prior to its transfer to the City and Neighbourhood Services Department.

Accordingly, it was recommended that the Committee

- (a) approve the transfer of the Fleet Management Unit to the City and Neighbourhood Services Department on the basis of an effective date no later than 1st April, 2018;

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

- (b) approve the revised Fleet staffing structure as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, together with the necessary changes as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report, and authorise the Director of Property and Projects to proceed to implementation; and
- (c) agree to receive a further report by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services later in the year in respect of the proposed integration of the Fleet Management Unit into the City and Neighbourhood Services Departmental structure.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Happy Christmas and Nollaig Shona Signage – City Hall

The Committee was reminded that, in 2012, it had approved the erection of an Irish language Christmas sign on the East façade of the City Hall. The original sign had been made available to the Council at no cost and had served its purpose to date. However, it was becoming difficult to use given its overall poor condition. The sign was in need of replacing as soon as possible and in 2015 it had been necessary to fit new rope-lights to the sign to keep it operational at a cost of over £1000.

A new sign of this size/type would cost approximately £12,000 till £15,000 and, in addition to the associated costs of a sign, the issue of the optimal placement of any new sign had been raised. Accordingly, officers had been asked to assess the feasibility of erecting any new sign on the front façade rather than in the East area.

The Property Maintenance Unit had therefore reviewed the site and available options were as follows:

- **Option 1** - Procure a replacement '*Nollaig Shona*' sign of the same dimensions as the existing one and erect it on the existing location on the East façade (using existing fixing points and power connections) – approximate cost £12,000 - £15,000);
- **Option 2** - retain the existing large 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign and complement it with one sign on each end column of the front façade east and west, i.e. one 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign and one '*Nollaig Shona*' sign – cost per sign would be approximately £12,000 - £15,000 each (that is, £24K-£30K in total);
- **Option 3** - commission a completely new sign incorporating both English and Irish text on a single large sign and use it to replace the existing 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign – approximate cost £25,000 - £30,000.
- **Option 4** – similar to option 2, except having Nollaig Shona on one end column and Blythe Yuletide on the other.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

The Committee agreed to adopt Option 4.

The Committee agreed also that officers investigate for Christmas 2018 the potential of installing a screen to display “Happy Christmas” in multiple languages.

Asset Management

The Committee considered a report in relation to the possible disposal of an area of green space extending to 0.715 acres at Cregagh Park, Belfast. The land had been transferred to the Council from Castlereagh Borough Council as part of Local Government Reform in 2015.

The Committee agreed to declare the area of land surplus to requirements and that it subsequently be placed on the open market for sale, with any such sale being subject to obtaining planning permission.

Strategic Issues/Belfast Agenda

**Addressing Inequalities through Lifelong Learning –
Belfast Strategic Partnership Application to
UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update members on work undertaken to date to support the development of Belfast as a Learning City;
- Provide background information on the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities; and
- Seek endorsement to submit a proposal, for Belfast to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, as part of the city’s efforts to grow the economy, reduce inequalities and create opportunities for all.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the information provided; and
- Agree to Belfast joining the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. An application to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities will require the signature of the Lord Mayor.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

Across the city health, education and economic inequalities continue to impact and restrict the potential of many people and communities. Notably this is most evident in life expectancy levels with those who are most deprived expected to have a lower life expectancy of up to 10 years. Action to address such inequalities requires collaborative approaches across a range of determinants including education, employment, community living and access to services and opportunities.

3.2 The Belfast Agenda recognises that ‘working and *learning*’ is vital to economic, social and environmental well-being by supporting the economy, building good relations, empowering people to reach their potential and developing a more inclusive society. The principles of learning are fundamental to tackling some of Belfast’s persistent societal-inequalities such as health, educational attainment and well-being. The inclusive growth focus of the Belfast Agenda is about improving the economy and ensuring the benefits of this are felt by everyone across the city, leaving no one behind. To tackle inequalities and ensure individuals can reap the benefits of economic growth, a joined up approach will be required across a range of stakeholders. Learning is one mechanism through which inequalities can be addressed and individual’s life prospects can be improved. It can help improve well-being by developing emotional resilience, create access to more and better jobs through skills development and support educational attainment across all ages. Reflecting the importance of learning it has a key role in the four priority themes of the Belfast Agenda: Growing the Economy, Living Here, Working and Learning and City Development. Targets and key work streams focused upon the importance of learning have been reflected across the Belfast Agenda.

3.3 Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) have identified Lifelong Learning as one of its five strategic priorities to address life inequalities, recognising the connection between educational attainment, learning opportunities and life inequalities, and the extent to which family, community and environmental influences impact learning opportunities, particularly within population groups facing the highest level of deprivation.

3.4 To take this strategic priority forward, BSP established a Lifelong Learning group, which includes representation from

a range of statutory and community stakeholders including Council, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Education Authority, Catholic Controlled Maintained Schools, Queen's University Belfast, Ashton Community Trust, Belfast Metropolitan College, GEMS NI, Department for the Economy and Department for Communities. The focus for this group is to:

- advocate for strategic approaches which maximise the role and potential of lifelong learning in addressing life inequalities in Belfast;
- encourage innovation in lifelong learning practice through developing flagship examples and using BSP to influence change.

3.5 In February 2015, BSP launched the 'Belfast a Learning City' strategic document, including a Learning Charter for Belfast, (see appendix 1) which sets out a vision of Belfast where learning is used as a positive force to expand and enhance life chances for all citizens in Belfast. The aim of the publication was to ensure that all Belfast citizens have equal access to learning opportunities, creating conditions for a better quality of life for everyone in the city.

3.6 'Belfast a Learning City' is based on the EU definition of learning, recognising the breadth of learning activity across personal, social, civic and employment related reasons for learning. The Lifelong Learning Group also developed the following four key messages to promote a broader understanding and awareness of the wider benefits of learning:

- Learning through education: Learning is the foundation for life. Education and training give us opportunities to shape our future.
- Learning for and in work: Learning creates routes to work. It generates opportunities, develops our careers and strengthens our communities and city.
- Learning for life: Learning changes our lives for the better. Everyday there is the chance to learn something new.
- Learning to live together: Learning brings us together. It develops respect and understanding about and within our communities.

3.7 The BSP has identified an opportunity to further the work of the Life Long Learning Group and to develop Belfast's status as a Learning City by becoming a member of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC). UIL is a non-profit international institute, it undertakes research, capacity building, networking

and publication of lifelong learning with a focus on adult and continuing education, literacy and non formal basic education.

- 3.8 Developed to promote lifelong learning in urban communities UIL sets out six areas of focus which reflect the major building blocks of a learning city. It includes key features for each of these areas and possible indicators on progress. The six areas of focus are:
- Inclusive learning in the education system;
 - Revitalised learning in families and communities
 - Effective learning for and in the workplace
 - Extended use of modern learning technologies
 - Enhances quality and excellence in learning
 - A vibrant culture of learning throughout life
- 3.9 The benefits associated with being a member of the GNLC include:
- *Being part of a dynamic network* - Connecting with other learning cities with common interests, tackling similar issues and envisioning similar development agendas and links to a network of experts and professionals specializing in the field of lifelong learning for sustainable development;
 - *Receiving guidance and support* - Accessing tools and strategies for developing learning cities, insights into best practice from the latest research and practice;
 - *City recognition* – Belfast would enjoy global recognition of its efforts to create a learning city and showcase the good practice that exists in the city. In addition Belfast would have the opportunity to apply for the biennial UNESCO Learning City Award in 2018.
- 3.10 Cities which have embraced the concept of *Lifelong Learning for All* have seen significant improvements in terms of public health, economic growth, reduction in crime and increases in democratic participation. Current membership includes only 2 cities in Great Britain (Bristol and Swansea) and 2 in Republic of Ireland (Cork and Limerick); therefore Belfast would be the first city in the region to become a member.
- 3.11 An application to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) cannot proceed without the support of Council. Once the Council confirms its support for the application, the following steps will be undertaken by BSP:

- Complete the application form for submission to Council to be signed by the Lord Mayor; (appendix 2)
- Join the UNESCO GNLC; there are no fees for joining nor obligations on length of membership.
- Refocus the role and remit of the Lifelong Learning Group in the context of a revised action plan for developing a learning city;
- Develop a Learning City Plan to create a framework for collective action incorporating existing initiatives and key actions to use learning to address inequalities.

3.12 It is a requirement of UNESCO that the Learning City Plan must align to the following themes:

- Individual empowerment and social cohesion
- Economic development and cultural prosperity
- Sustainable development

Currently many organisations in the city contribute to these outcomes, it is therefore expected that rather than create a suite of new initiatives the plan will encompass existing activity of BSP co-sponsors and its stakeholders. The creation of a Learning City Plan will provide a means through which to better connect this work up and facilitate more collaboration and cooperation in the city. The Learning City Plan will also align to the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda and key city priorities, including employment, inclusive growth and enhanced collaborative synergies across partners, including links to 'Making Life Better – 10 year Public Health Strategy' and the new Draft Programme for Government.

3.13 The BSP through its relevant structures including the Executive Programme Group (EPG) and the Lifelong Learning Group will lead the completion of the UNESCO application, development of the Learning City Plan and its management. BSP's co-sponsors Belfast City Council, Public Health Agency (PHA) and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) will be required to contribute towards the development of the Learning City Plan through existing activities. Examples of the work currently being undertaken by BSP's co-sponsors to be featured in the Learning Plan are included within Appendix 3.

3.14 All partners within BSP's Lifelong Learning group have indicated their willingness to contribute relevant organisational actions to the Learning City Plan. An example of this is the Department of the Economy's development of the Unique Learner Number which will allow tracking of learners across different providers and across their lifespan.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.15 There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report. The application process, development of the Learning City Plan including its management will be led by staff within the Belfast Health Development Unit. Under current working arrangements for BSP, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust continue to provide staff resource (1 FTE Project Development Officer) which currently supports this area of work. Further support is also provided by the PHA to support the activities of the Lifelong Learning Group.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.16 There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report. Any future Learning City Plan would be developed in consultation with the Equality & Diversity Officers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

**Capital Programme Update –
Proposed movements/additions**

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 The Council’s Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report outlines for Members proposed movements on the programme and proposed additions.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to –

Capital Programme - Project Movements

- agree that the following projects are moved to Stage 3- Committed –Schemes at tender preparation stage and agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically

advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver –

- City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph – Upgrade and Enhancements (see 3.4) – with a maximum budget of £200,000 to be allocated to ensure easier access for disabled and elderly veterans - the Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are advised that an investment decision on this project must be taken in August 2017 in order to allow for the works to be started after the 2017 Remembrance Sunday and completed in time for the Somme Commemoration in July 2018. Upgrading the cenotaph has special significance next year to marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I
- IT Programme - Bereavement Services System (see 3.6) - with a maximum budget of £50,000 to be allocated - the Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- agree that the following projects are added as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects
 - Relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot (see 3.9) – following the decision to acquire Commission House in January 2017 this will allow the options for the wider Dunbar site to be worked up including the options for the relocation of the current cleansing depot. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision nor a decision to close the depot at the current time and that Members will be kept up to date on the options
 - Hammer Development Playground (see 3.11) - In May Committee approved a negotiated financial settlement of £250,000 from the NIHE in relation to the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and it is recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme to be funded by the ring-fenced financial settlement from the NIHE

Capital Programme – Project Updates

- note the update in respect of the Belfast Streets Ahead 3 project as outlined in 3.12 below which has implications for the Council's Cathedral Gardens project which is currently at Stage 2- Uncommitted on the programme

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

3.3 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements as summarised below

Project	Overview	Stage
City Hall Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens	Upgrade and Enhancements to facilitate access to the site Maximum of £200,000 to be allocated	Move to Stage 3- Committed
IT Programme – Bereavement Services System	Purchase of a new Bereavement Services System to replace the current 3 systems Maximum of £50,000 to be allocated	Move to Stage 3- Committed
Dunbar Link Depot Relocation	To examine the options in relation to the proposed relocation of Dunbar Link	Add as an Emerging Project
Hammer Development Playground	Upgrade and development of a new playground at the Hammer (to be funded from the ringfenced settlement from the NIHE in respect of Tudor Place)	Add as an Emerging Project

Move to Stage 3 – Committed

3.4 City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – Upgrade and Enhancements –The project involves the enhancement and refurbishment of the existing Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens in the West area of the City Hall to help facilitate greater access for disabled and less mobile clients/visitors. There are two major events held during each year at the Cenotaph - the Somme Commemoration and Remembrance Sunday. These events take place in July and November respectively and are well attended by Elected Members and other VIPs and there is significant media coverage around these. Over the years veterans who participate in these services are becoming older and access is proving to become more difficult given the difference in site levels currently in existence within the Cenotaph area and Members will be aware that a number of complaints have been received by the Council in respect of lack of accessibility. The proposed upgrade works are therefore focused on enhancing accessibility to the site together with overall upgrades and include:

- **Provision of two permanent ramps allowing better access to the Memorial Garden and the Cenotaph**
- **Maintenance and upgrade works including additional lighting, repainting of railings, specialist cleaning to the Cenotaph Memorial and repointing to all paving**

- Provision of accessible access to Korean War Memorial directly from Memorial Gardens

Members are asked to note that 2018 sees a number of significant commemorative events in the 'Decade of Centenaries' one of which being the 100th anniversary of the end of the World War I. A date which has particular significance and will attract considerable media coverage. Members are asked to note that if the works on this project are to be completed in time for the Somme Commemoration in July 2018 then an investment decision on this project must be taken at the August Committee as works must begin in January 2018.

3.5 It is now recommended that this project is progressed to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme and the Director of Finance and Resources has recommended that a maximum of £200,000 be allocated to this project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

3.6 IT Programme – Bereavement Services System – The Bereavement Services, Cemeteries and Crematorium Central Office is responsible for the booking of all burials and cremations in the Council. At the moment the Service uses three separate systems to manage the processes around Cemeteries Management which are no longer fit for purpose and do not provide an effective or efficient way of managing the service. It has therefore been identified that there is a requirement for an effective information management system which will –

- Provide an accurate and efficient booking system, decreasing the risk of double booking, and safeguarding the Council's reputation;
- Provide a link to corporate financial systems, to ensure effective financial governance;
- Produce statistical information to departmental and corporate KPI's;
- Reduce reliance on manual processes and documentation, freeing officer time for the wider Bereavement Strategy;
- Provide the potential to develop service enhancements in relation to activities including online opportunities, memorial safety, tree burials etc. emerging from the Bereavement Strategy

The proposed new system will provide one integrated solution which would deliver the above functionality with the addition of online functionality to deliver service enhancement opportunities.

- 3.7 It is now recommended that this project is progressed to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme and the Director of Finance and Resources has recommended that a maximum of £50,000 be allocated to this project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- 3.8 Committee is further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) for the two projects above be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Project

- 3.9 Proposed relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot – Members will recall that in January 2017 they agreed the purchase of Commission House and that this is currently progressing. At the time Members were advised that Commission House was located in close proximity to the Council's Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot and Council public car park located opposite the depot. The depot and car park sites and the adjoining lands in private ownership, together with the Commission House site, could potentially provide a key city centre regeneration opportunity in this part of the city, subject to the satisfactory relocation of the cleansing depot site. In addition Members were further advised that between the car park and the depot is Dunbar Street, an adopted road, which primarily serves only the car park and the block of properties (4 no. buildings) within which the cleansing depot is located, but that consideration could be giving to the abandonment of this small stretch of road in order to provide a larger regeneration site. Some initial discussions have taken place with the owner of the 2 adjoining sites with a view to potential redevelopment of the combined lands comprising the Council's depot and car park sites and the privately owned sites.
- 3.10 It is therefore recommended that the proposed relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot is added to the Capital Programme which will allow the options in relation to the future of the site to be worked up. This would include the car park site. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision or a decision to close and re-locate either Dunbar Link or the car-park and that Members will be kept up to date in respect of the proposed options which emerge. It is recognised that Dunbar Link is still a working location and the car-park is in operation as a parking facility. Therefore the Property & Projects Department will also work closely with the City &

Neighbourhoods Department and the City Centre Team in progressing options for the site.

- 3.11 Hammer Development Playground – In May Committee approved a negotiated financial settlement of £250,000 from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to an Agreement dated 7th August, 2000 for the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and approved proposals for this capital receipt to be ring-fenced for the provision of a new playground at the Hammer. It is recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme to be funded by the ring-fenced financial settlement from the NIHE.

Project Updates

- 3.12 Cathedral Gardens – In January 2016 the SP&R Committee endorsed their commitment to the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens as part of Phase 3 of the Streets Ahead project (BSA3) and agree in principle to ringfence an allocation (up to a maximum of £5m) as part of this subject to final confirmation of the costs and a commitment from DfC for the delivery of Streets Ahead 3. This project is currently a Stage 2- Uncommitted scheme on the capital programme pending confirmation from DfC on the project. Members are asked to note that the Council has recently received notification from DfC that given the continued uncertainty in respect of budgets in central government that the current procurement process for BSA3 is being terminated and that a new process will not commence until there is certainty around the budget position. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee this month expressed real concern about this decision by the Department for Communities and agreed to write to them asking that they reconsider this position. If they do not reconsider it is recommended that the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens is held as a Stage 2 project pending confirmation of BSA3 being taken forward. Members will recall that it had been agreed that the Buoys would be relocated as part of the redevelopment and it is recommended that this still progresses.

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial –The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that the City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – Upgrade and Enhancements and the IT Programme – Bereavement Services System projects which are recommended to move to Stage 3 (see 3.5 and 3.7) are within the affordability limits

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

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

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – Upgrade and Enhancements – this project has been equality screened and has been screened out.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

- Programme level budget – Avoniel and Templemore – note the update in respect of the current project estimates for Avoniel and Templemore as at 3.4-3.6 below and approve the reallocation of £4m from Avoniel project towards the Templemore project providing an overall budget of £12m for Templemore and £8m for Avoniel (the previous agreed budgets being Templemore £8m and Avoniel £12m). Members are asked to note that this has no implications for the overall leisure budget which remains within the overall limit of £105m
- Templemore – approve the acquisition of the adjacent former hospital site from the Department for Communities at a nominal sum and on such other terms as agreed by the Director of Property and Projects and Town Solicitor in order to facilitate the development of the new Templemore (see 3.10 below)

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

- **Andersonstown – note that the planning application for Andersonstown is due to be considered at the Planning Committee on 15th August and Members will be verbally updated at the meeting on 18th August**

3.0 Main report

Programme level

Design cost budgets – Templemore and Avoniel

- 3.1 Members will also be aware that an overall affordability limit of £105m has been agreed for the Leisure Transformation Programme and in April 2015 Committee agreed the notional cost design limits for each of the projects under the Programme as below. It was also agreed that these projects would be phased as laid out in below.**

CENTRE	DESIGN COST LIMIT	PHASE
Olympia	£19m	Phase 1A
Andersonstown	£25m	Phase 1B
Robinson	£20m	Phase 1B
Brook	£15m	Phase 1B
Avoniel	£12m	Phase 2
Templemore	£8m	Phase 2
Girdwood	£6m	Phase 2

- 3.2 A set of principles underpinning the leisure transformation programme has previously been agreed by Committee (see Appendix 1). As part of this Members agreed the need to develop a city wide strategy with a USP per centre that will encourage people to travel to centres from across the city and further afield. Given this Committee, in April 2016, agreed a USP strategy for the Programme as outlined below which was designed to ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. It was noted by Committee at this stage that further work was to be carried out in respect of the USP for Girdwood and this work is continuing.**

CENTRE	USP
Olympia	Sports Village
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence
Robinson	Aquatic Centre

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

CENTRE	USP
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence
Templemore	Spa and heritage

3.3 In terms of the Phase 2 projects (Avoniel and Templemore) officers have continued to work these up since this time on the basis of the agreed USPs and the high level facilities mixes as agreed.

CENTRE	Facilities Mix
Templemore Spa and heritage USP	Heritage Lottery Funding sought Renovation of the existing building and new extension to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23m existing pool • 25m 6 lane pool with partial moveable floor • 150 pool spectator seating capacity • Extensive spa • Heritage & Interpretation offering • 80 station fitness suite
Avoniel Outdoor centre of excellence USP	Proposed to become a dry facility only with wet provision to be focused at Robinson and Templemore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 covered 5-a-side pitches • 3 outdoor 5-a-side pitches • 3G football pitch • 4 team and 2 official changing • Multi-purpose and function room • Studios

3.4 Members will be aware that Templemore Baths is a listed building which is in a generally poor state of repair. The project is also proposing an extension to the existing centre on lands adjacent to the current site. Since the initial cost design limit was set in April 2015 officers have been progressing discussions with HLF in relation to securing funding to help renovate the existing building and in October 2016 Members were advised that the Council had been successful in its Round 1 application under HLF's Enterprise scheme and had received a development grant of £380,000 to work up detailed proposal for the project. This has now been progressed and the estimated project costs, which have been agreed with HLF, for Templemore are £17m with a contribution of £5m from HLF. This is primarily due to the costs in relation to restoring and conserving the current listed building. Therefore, this

assumes a Council contribution of £12m. Based on the agreed design cost limit as above of £8m this leaves a deficit of £4m.

- 3.5 Also in April 2015, Members agreed a budget of £12 million for Avoniel. However, based on the current stage 2 designs for Avoniel, the total cost is estimated to be £8m, which leaves an excess of £4m.
- 3.6 The SP&R Committee is therefore asked to approve the reallocation of £4m from Avoniel towards the Templemore project. This would provide a budget of £12m for Templemore and £8m for Avoniel. Members are asked to note that this has no implications for the overall leisure budget which remains within the overall limit of £105m.
- 3.7 Members are asked to note that is proposed to undertake consultation on both the Templemore and Avoniel projects in tandem later in the Autumn and that updates on the design and proposed consultation dates will be taken into the East AWG prior to this.

Programme Level – Social and Community Benefit Clauses

- 3.8 Members have previously been advised that there is a significant opportunity with the scale of the leisure investment to leverage additional benefits by procuring this as an overarching programme of work and that Heron Bros Ltd. have been appointed as the contractor for the delivery of the facilities at Andersonstown, Robinson and Brook. In line with the Council's 'Social Clause Policy' Heron Brothers are required to deliver the contract in such a way so as to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits for Belfast through training and employment opportunities and, where practical, using local suppliers.
- 3.9 As part of this Members will be aware that a 'Supply Chain Event' Event took place on 26th June in the City Hall to inform companies, suppliers and contractors (small, medium and large) of the process Heron Brothers will undertake to assess and select their suppliers as part of their contract and the various opportunities this will present to local businesses. This was followed up by another event on 10th August which took place in the new Olympia. Members are asked to note that there was extremely high levels of interest in both of these events with over 100 participants at the event in June and 150 participants from 105 companies demonstrating the significance of this contract for suppliers. These contacts will be followed up as the contract progresses.

Project level

Templemore

- 3.10** As outlined above the proposals for the development of new leisure facilities at Templemore Baths incorporate adjacent land owned by Department for Communities (DfC). This former hospital site lies to the south of Templemore Baths and comprises a cleared site extending to approximately 0.8 acres. The site had been expected to transfer to the Council under the transfer of regeneration as part of Local Government Reorganisation. As this did not occur, officers have been in discussions with DfC regarding acquisition of the site. Under Stormont Regulation and Government Property Act (Northern Ireland), 1933, DfC may transfer land to a local authority at a nominal price if it will result in its development, improvement or general benefit. Members are accordingly asked to approve the acquisition of this site at a nominal sum and on such other terms as agreed by the Director of Property and Projects and Town Solicitor.

Andersonstown

- 3.11** Members are asked to note that the application for the new Andersonstown is due to be considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 15th August and that the Committee will be verbally updated on the recommendation of the Planning Committee at the meeting on 18th. The SP&R Committee is asked to note that any changes to the design after planning approval is recommended will have both a cost implication and a programme implication. It is therefore recommended that 'design freeze' is now implemented for all the Phase 1B projects.

3.12 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m – there is no additional money available for leisure. The recommendation in relation to the Templemore/Avoniel budgets is a reallocation within this agreed £105m.

3.13 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no direct equality implications.”

During discussion, the Director of Property and Projects provided information on the construction schedule of the three centres and the associated programme and indicated that further details could be provided at the Area Working Groups as requested.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

The Committee noted also that the planning application for Andersonstown had been approved at the Planning Committee meeting on 15th August and accordingly 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 26th June;
North AWG 29th June; and
East AWG 27th June and 3rd August.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendations from the East Area Working Group as set out below in respect of the ring-fenced Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) allocation for Outer East (£2 million):

Project Ringfenced	BIF amount
TAGIT Boxing Club	£434,000
Braniel Church	£390,000
Hanwood Centre	£396,000
Lisnasharragh Community Schools project	£398,000
Castlereagh Presbyterian Church	£382,000

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2017/18

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 This report presents the Quarter 1 financial position for the Council including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack which contains a summary of the financial**

indicators and an executive summary (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

- 1.2 The Departmental year end forecast is a net year end under spend of £1.15m which represents a variance of 0.8% of the annual net expenditure budget. The District Rate forecast by the Land and Property Service (LPS) is a favourable outturn of £893k. It should be noted that this forecast is provided at a very early stage in the financial year and Council Officers will be working with LPS to scrutinise the rate forecast before an updated position is presented to Committee at Quarter 2.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the report and, given that the forecast outturn is based at an early stage in the financial year, agree that no in year budget reallocations should be considered until the Quarter 2 position is presented to the Committee in November 2017.

3.0 Main report

Current and Forecast Financial Position 2017/18

- 3.1 The financial position for Quarter 1 is a net departmental under-spend of £1.23m (3.4%). The forecast year-end departmental position is an under-spend of £1.15m (0.8%), which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.
- 3.2 The departmental underspend arises mainly from below budget employee and supplies expenditure due to staff vacancies, staff turnover and additional income. This has helped offset budgetary pressures within Waste Management and Facilities Management.

Rates Finalisation

- 3.3 The Quarter 1 forecast from LPS is a favourable overall outturn of £893k. As noted above this is an early stage forecast and officers will be meeting with LPS to review the income and losses and to scrutinise the drivers to the year-end forecast prior to the Quarter 2 reporting period.

Capital Projects

- 3.4 Planned capital expenditure for 2017/18 approved as part of the capital programme is £36.5m with forecast expenditure for the year of £36.81m.
- 3.5 The Summary Dashboard on Page 2 of the attached performance report summarises forecast expenditure on other capital programme including Non-Recurring Projects (£730k), Feasibility Fund (£34k) and projects in the new boundary areas (£685k).
- 3.6 Committed expenditure approved by the Committee on Belfast Investment Fund projects is £17.02m, with a further £4.96m committed on LIF 1 projects and £3.90m on LIF 2 projects.

Capital Financing

- 3.7 The summary dashboard has also been updated to provide analysis of the annual capital financing budget. Actual capital financing expenditure is forecast to be on budget by the year end.

Forecast Reserves Position

- 3.8 The balance of general reserves is forecast to increase from £13.35m to £15.39m at the year end. This increase is based on the forecast departmental underspend and the favourable settlement forecast from LPS. An updated position will be brought to Committee in Quarter 2.
- 3.9 The planned expenditure from specified reserves is forecast to reduce the specified reserve balances to £1.35m at the year end.

3.10 **Finance and Resource Implications**

The Departmental position at Quarter 1 together with the forecast year end Council position is detailed within the report. It is recommended that no budget reallocations are considered until Quarter 2 given that the current forecast is based at an early stage in the financial year.

3.11 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None.”

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Efficiency Programme 2018/19 – 2019/20

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the Efficiency Programme and agreed to include this as an agenda item as part of the Party Group Briefings in August.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (1) Approved in principle, the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1 – Table 1, through the Council's electronic procurement systems and noted that the tenders would only be advertised when they had gone through the Council's internal governance process, which included demonstrating a strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda;
- (2) Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economical advantageous tender, allow extensions where contracts were under review as per Appendix 1 – Table 2;
- (3) Approved the award of the contract outlined in Appendix 1 – Table 3, which had been carried out by Arc21 on behalf of the Council;
- (4) Noted the contracts which had been awarded in the previous quarter, as listed in Appendix 1 – Table 4; and
- (5) Approved the procurement of Executive Search via the quotation process to assist the Council in the recruitment and selection of its new Operational Director posts in the newly created Place and Economy Department.

TABLE 1 - SCHEDULE OF TENDERS FOR CONSIDERATION

NEW TENDERS

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and Erection of street nameplates	Phil Williams	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Framework for hire of ancillary equipment	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Strengthening the Cultural Sector: Resilience Building Investment Programme	Donal Durkan	1 year with option to renew for a further 1 year
Resourceful procurement support	Donal Durkan	3 years

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Employability Outreach Activity Project	Donal Durkan	3 years with option for further 1 year
Business/Education Partnership	Donal Durkan	3 years with option for further 1 year
Sector specific Strategy Development	Donal Durkan	1 year
Developing Local Tourism Infrastructure	Donal Durkan	1 year
Digitisation of Building Control Records	Phil Williams	1 year with option to renew for a further 3 years
Older Persons Home Safety and Repair Service	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Communicating Community Safety 'Where is your child tonight'	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Supply and Delivery of Child Home Safety Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Youth Services to address Antisocial Behaviour	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services to address Substance mis-use	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services to address Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime;	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services to address Domestic Violence	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services for Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Safer Belfast Programme Equipment and Promotional works	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Staging of Funfair at Boucher Road	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option for a further 2 years
Provision of Fun Day entertainments call-off framework	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option for a further 2 years
Mobile Catering in Parks sites	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option for a further 2 years
Maintenance and removal of hanging baskets (Belfast in Bloom)	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of forcing and bedding bulbs	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of Parks seats (including memorialisation)	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply and Delivery of Padlocks and Keys	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Service to control invasive species	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply, Erection and Dismantling of Marquees for Council Events	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply Delivery & Installation of signage for City & Neighbourhood Department	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply & delivery of Timber	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 2 years

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply & Delivery Grounds Maintenance Plant & Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Maintenance & repair of grounds Maintenance Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Administration and Delivery of First-Aid Training	Ronan Cregan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply & Delivery of Promotional Items	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Provision of medical and first-aid requirements for Council Events	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Food concession supplier	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Provision of Young Tree Maintenance Services	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 4 years
Hire of grounds maintenance equipment with and without operator	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Maintenance and Repair of Grounds Maintenance Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 4 years
Supply and Delivery of Sand, Topsoil and Sand Soil mix	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply and Delivery of quality Fertilisers, Pesticides, Grass Seed and Line Marking	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Enterprise Support	Donal Durkan	3 years with option for a further 1 year
Fleet Oils, Lubricants and Coolant.	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
General fleet maintenance, fabrication and welding services	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Fleet Stores Consumable Products	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply & delivery of 2. No Excavators	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 2 years
IT Security Services	Ronan Cregan	1 year with option for further 2 years
Provision of Route Optimisation Consultancy & associated Software	Ronan Cregan	3 years
CCIF - Evaluation of Supplier	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Belfast Story Site Acquisition Strategy	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Belfast Story: Economic Appraisal and Design	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Blackstaff Square - planning and design	Nuala Gallagher	1 year with option for further 1 year
City Centre Living – Consumer Advice	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Inner North-West - Planning and Design	Nuala Gallagher	18 months
Infrastructure Strategy – Consultancy Advice	Nuala Gallagher	1 year

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Car Park and Assets Strategy	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Provision of City Animation	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Delivery of Marketing Support	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Regeneration Engagement - Technical Support	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Masterplan – Bankmore Link	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Masterplan – Corporation Street	Nuala Gallagher	1 year

TABLE 2 - CONTRACTS FOR EXTENSION

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Tender for supply of Bottled / Mains Fed Water	Gerry Millar	Month to month extension until new contract in place

TABLE 3 - TENDERS AWARDED BY ARC21 ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Caddy Liners	Nigel Grimshaw	12 months with the option to renew up to a further 12 months

TABLE 4 - CONTRACTS AWARDED MAY –JULY 2017

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Hire of Vehicles up to and including 7.5 GVW	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1year)	Lot 1: Corrigan's Vehicles Hire Ltd, Blackstaff Way, Kennedy Way Industrial Estate, Belfast BT11 9AP
Hire of Vehicles up to and including 7.5 GVW	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1year)	Lot 2 R D Mechanical Services Ltd, 7 McKinney Rd, Newtownabbey BT36 4PE
Hire of Vehicles up to and including 7.5 GVW	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1year)	Lot 3 Stewart Commercials, 11 Springfarm Industrial Estate, Antrim BT41 4NZ

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Provision of Minibus/Coach Service	Gerry Millar	1year (+3years)	Belfast Bus Company Unit 1, Bayview Industrial Estate Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT3 9JP
Supply and Delivery of Plastic Sacks	Gerry Millar	1year (+2year)	Cromwell Polythene Ltd Orion Building, Seafox Court, Sherburn Enterprise Park, Leeds LS25 6PL
Supply, Fitting and Maintenance Fire Extinguishers	Gerry Millar	Aug 2017- July 2020	1 st Klass Fire Protection 49 Chippendale Avenue Bangor BT20 4PX
Provision of Porterage Service	Gerry Millar	3years (+2 years)	Delivery Services Westlink Enterprise Centre, Distillery St, Belfast BT12 5BG
Provision of Occupational Health Physician	Ronan Cregan	1year (+1year)	Mr. Tony McGread OHRD Ltd, Princes House, 44-46 Princes Street, Belfast , Antrim BT1 3FP
Provision of Employee Counselling Service	Ronan Cregan	1year (+1year)	Apheideo Associates Ltd Premier Business Centre 20 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GD
Instillation of Metal Fencing	Gerry Millar	1 year (+2years)	NK Fencing Ltd 40 Trailcock Rd, Carrickfergus BT38 7NU

City Deal Workshop

The Committee agreed to the holding of a workshop to discuss the City Deal.

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership held on 8th August, 2017, including the following recommendations:

- noted the contents of the update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme, including the recommendation that the NIHE Shared City Partnership member should sit on the Programme Review Panel;

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

- noted that the Executive Office funding for the Good Relations Programme and Planned Intervention Programme had now been received from the Executive Office and approved the recommended reallocation of £10,000 to grant aid funding;
- approved the recommendation that support of up to £1,300 be allocated to Clifton House to assist with the delivery of the four events linked to key dates and themes in the Decade of Centenaries;
- noted the update on the response to the Council's 2017/18 bid for funding through T:BUC/Shared Future funds for an interfaces programme and the change to the stretch goal in the Belfast Agenda in relation to interfaces;
- noted the proposed event to be held on 21st September to mark the 2017 International Day of Peace and approved the recommendation to provide £1,200 to install the "Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict" exhibition in the foyer of the Girdwood Community Hub during community relations and cultural diversity week.

The Committee agreed also that the report on the investigation in relation to Bonfires as per the agreed Terms of Reference be submitted to the October meeting rather than the September meeting of the Committee as previously agreed.

Operational Issues

**European Local Democracy Week –
EurVoice 2017**

The Committee was reminded that European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) was an annual event held each October. The overarching purpose of ELDW was to promote a better involvement of citizens in public life, enhance transparency of local government mechanisms and improve social cohesion, in particular among young people and disadvantaged groups.

For the past five years, the Council had organised and delivered "EurVoice" events which had allowed pupils from secondary schools, members of the Council's Youth Forum, representatives of the European Youth Parliament and participants from Community Groups in the City to interact with their local Councillors on issues affecting the youth of today. Following the success of the event to date, it was felt that it would be worth organising another engagement event for 2017, where both young people and Councillors could meet to discuss the relevant issues which faced the young citizens of the City.

The Committee was advised that if it were minded to approve the EurVoice 2017 event, it was proposed that it would take place in the Great Hall in October from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm and would target Belfast City Council schools and youth organisations. A series of activities were planned including:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

- participating in a mock voting exercise;
- facilitated workshop on issues affecting young people, including decision-making skills, debate preparation and presenting their ideas to the Members for feedback; and
- finishing with a panel Question and Answer session with Members of the Council.

The Committee agreed to the hosting of the EurVoice 2017 event as outlined.

Minutes of meeting of Historic Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 3rd August.

Minutes of meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 10th August.

Minutes of Active Belfast Board Limited

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Board Limited of 7th August.

Requests for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality

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

AUGUST 2017 FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2017 EVENTS						
Wandsworth Community Association	18 Sept 2017	Reception followed by Awards Ceremony and dinner. Queens Awards for Voluntary Service being presented by Lord Lieutenant. Attending – Approx. 80	Yes – C & D	No charge (charity)	Yes Wine reception up to £500 max (community group evening event)	Allow No charge Wine reception
Homecoming Event	6 Oct 2017	4 course dinner followed by entertainment	Yes – A & B	Yes £300 (not £825 as dinner linked to	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max	Allow Charge £300 Wine reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

		Attending – 250		<i>BCC Sister Cities</i>	(international guests linked with EDU/BCC)	
Family Nurse Partnership	9 Oct 2017	2 hour event with buffet and speeches welcoming International Family Nurses who are in the City for training on Domestic Violence Attending - 45	Yes – A & B	Yes £115	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests)	Allow Charge £115 Wine reception
Belfast Recovery College	16 Oct 2017	Formal launch of Belfast Trust Recovery College Attending – 150-200	Yes – A & D	No charge (voluntary)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum	13 Nov 2017	Launch of Anti-Bullying Week and Awards Ceremony Attending - 100	Yes – C & D	No charge (charity)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
Polish Educational and Cultural Organisation	19 Nov 2017	Cultural event to celebrate Polish Independence Day Attending 100-150	Yes – C & D	No charge (charity)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
2018 EVENTS						
Helplines Network Northern Ireland	6 Feb 2018	Information Day with speeches and presentations to mark NI Helplines Day 2018, Attending 150	Yes – C & D	No charge (voluntary)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
Ulster University Science Festival	22 February 2018	Turing Lecture and exhibition as part of the city wide Science Festival. Attending 500	Yes – A & B 1 in 3 rule to be applied	Yes £300	No	Allow 1 in 3 rule to be applied Charge £300 No hospitality
Queen's University Belfast Women's Leadership TEDx	21 May 2018	A talk exploring Women and Leadership followed by dinner Attending 150-	Yes – A & B	Yes £300	No	Allow Charge £300 No hospitality

Comment [JT1]:

B1426

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

		200				
Queen's University Belfast School of Medicine	24 May 2018	Reception to welcome delegates who are attending symposium on Diabetic Eye Disease Attending 150	Yes – A & B	Yes £300	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow Charge £300 Wine reception
Conference Partners International – Belfast Summit	28 May 2018	Welcome Reception For Belfast Summit on Global Food Integrity Attending 700	Yes – A & B	Yes £300	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow Charge £300 Wine reception
Driver and Vehicle Agency CIECEA General Assembly	30 May 2018	50 th CIECEA General Assembly 2018 being held in Belfast – Reception, Dinner, Entertainment Attending 200-250	Yes – A, B & C	No charge Conference supported by Visit Belfast	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow No Charge Wine reception
ADRC NI Centre for Public Health, QUB	21 June 2018	Welcome reception, dinner and ceili for delegates attending this 2 day conference in Belfast Attending – 250	Yes – A & B	£825.00 (university not a charity)	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow Charge £825 Wine reception
2019 EVENTS						
Instonians Rugby Club	17 May 2019	Dinner, Speeches and Dance to celebrate centenary of the Club Attending 375	Yes – C & D	No charge (community)	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow No Charge Wine reception

Belfast Rapid Transit Vehicle Launch

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) reference group inviting the Lord Mayor to attend the unveiling of the new Belfast Rapid Transit vehicle at the “Busworld Europe” conference in Kortrijk, Belgium on 19th October, 2017.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

The conference was the biggest bus and coach exhibition in Europe and was attended by around 35,000 visitors. The Belgian-based company Van Hool, which was awarded the BRT contract in November 2015, was using the conference to launch and showcase the new vehicle on an European platform.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Lord Mayor and an officer at the unveiling of the new Belfast Rapid transit vehicle at the “Busworld Europe” conference and authorised the payment of the appropriate travel and subsistence allowances associated with the trip.

**Fifth Annual Irish Networks
USA National Conference 2017**

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th August, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had approved the attendance of the Lord Mayor and two officers at the launch of the Belfast International Arts Festival in New York on 18th September. She advised the Members that, subsequently an invitation had been received from Irish Networks USA organisation inviting the Lord Mayor to attend the Fifth Annual INUSA National Conference 2017 in Chicago from 14th till 17th September, which was the day before the New York visit. Accordingly, she sought authority from the Committee to approve the invitation and indicated that both visits would be combined.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Lord Mayor and two officers at the Fifth Annual Irish Networks National Conference 2017 in Chicago from 14th till 17th September. The Committee noted that this would be arranged in conjunction with the visit of the Lord Mayor to the launch of the Belfast International Arts Festival in New York on 18th September which had been approved by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Council Photograph – Alderman Browne to raise

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item to allow Alderman Browne who had raised the matter to be in attendance.

Notice of Motion – Cladding on Flats and High Rise Buildings

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, had passed the following motion on Cladding on Flats and High Rise Buildings which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and 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.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 18th August, 2017**

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.”

The Committee was advised that a response had now been received from Mr. P. Wickens, Chief Executive of the Department of Finance’s Enterprise Shared Services Section, which was responsible for administering the Buildings Regulations legislation in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Wickens had confirmed that the Department of Finance was fully aware of the issues arising from the Grenfell Tower tragedy, had highlighted the Department’s input into a number of guidance letters promoting the appropriate testing of Aluminium Composite Materials and had thanked Councils for their co-operation and support in reporting on those tests.

He had pointed out that the Department of Finance fully recognised its role in ensuring that all aspects of Building Regulations specified the minimum requirements which could be reasonably attained and that it had, since the introduction in 1972 of those Regulations, developed proposals to reflect research carried out on the Government’s behalf by, for example, the Building Research Establishment. He explained that Part E (Fire Safety) of the Building Regulations, which had been updated in 2012, would, following the investigation into the Grenfell Tower tragedy, require further consideration and that the Departmental officials had, in the interim, initiated a review of the Technical Booklet which provided guidance on that element of the legislation, with a view to quickly addressing any straightforward amendments to that guidance.

Mr. Wickens had then highlighted the extent of the support which the Department of Finance received from the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee and concluded by pointing out that officials had met with their counterparts within the Building Control Service and by acknowledging the ongoing goodwill and the expertise which had been shared to date.

The Committee noted the response and agreed that a report on this matter, together with evacuation procedures which had been prepared by the Council’s Building Control Section be circulated to all Members of the Council.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

People and Communities Committee

Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers and McCoubrey; and
Councillors Austin, Corr Johnston, Garrett, Heading,
Lyons, McCabe, McReynolds, Milne and Newton.

Also attended: The High Sherriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen Convery, Kingston and Spence; and
Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Dudgeon and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Copeland and Alderman McKee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Housing Investment Plan for Belfast

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

Mr. Bailie introduced the members of his team and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to notify the Council of its past year's performance and next year's proposals. He pointed out that, whilst the NIHE was required by statute to present to the Council, he recognised the important role of the Council and emphasised that an opportunity for effective joined-up working existed, particularly in respect of Community Planning powers and the Belfast Agenda.

Mr. Bailie provided the Members with a presentation on the Housing Investment Plan (HIP) for Belfast. He explained that the HIP was a four year plan with an annual update in the intervening years, this being the second update. He advised that the HIP provided an update on the progress of the Housing Executive and other agencies to achieve the intended outcomes, this included an overview of the housing market in Belfast, including details regarding social housing investment at a local level. He summarised further the five themes as contained within the presentation:

**Special People and Communities Committee,
Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017**

- to identify and meet housing need and demand;
- to improve people's homes;
- to transform people's lives;
- to enable sustainable neighbourhoods; and
- to deliver quality services.

He then proceeded to outline the key housing issues that had been identified as follows:

- an ageing population – 17% of the population was aged 60+ in 2005;
- 10,738 total applications on the waiting list – which was a slight decrease on last year;
- 7322 (68%) in housing stress – 2% increase on last year;
- 2361 social housing allocations – same as last year;
- 5395 households presented as homeless;
- 3289 households accepted as homeless (61%);
- 1058 temporary accommodation placements;
- 416 new social homes completed 2016/17; and
- 335 new social homes started in 2016/17.

The Committee noted the Future Housing Issues that had been identified by the NIHE as follows:

- Over 5000 new social housing units would be needed over the next five years;
- Large population increase (70,000) planned by 2035 – land availability and Local Development Plan Impact;
- Continued growth of the Private Rented Sector and Purpose Student Accommodation (PBSA) – now make up 20% of total housing stock in Belfast; and
- Stagnant owner occupied market.

He explained the HIP within the Local Belfast Context, insofar as the Local Development Plan (LDP) would impact on land availability, and also referred to the Regeneration Initiatives for Urban Renewal Areas, Building Successful Communities, Urban Villages and the Tower Block Strategy.

Mr. Bailie outlined that the HIP set out the strategic direction for housing across all tenures, both new and existing. He stated that since the publication of the HIP, the Housing Executive, as a statutory Community Planning and Local Development (LDP) partner, had welcomed the opportunity to work with the Council and stakeholders to incorporate and embed the HIP vision and outcomes within Community Planning and the LDP process and he highlighted that the Housing Executive would be continuing to liaise closely with the Council in this respect.

During Members' questions, the Committee was appraised regarding land banking, the vesting of land, the control of the private rental sector, this included discussion on housing benefit, the impact of welfare reform and the potential freezing of

**Special People and Communities Committee,
Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017**

the local housing allowance and the role of the private rental sector and housing associations.

In light of the recent tragic fire at Grenfell, London, the officers from the NIHE answered a range of questions regarding the safety of its Tower Block buildings. The Chief Executive confirmed that rigorous testing had been undertaken on the cladding of all the NIHE buildings and they had passed the BR135 safety standard. He advised the Members that the Housing Executive would continue to monitor these buildings on a regular basis and assured the Committee that where any potential improvements had been identified the works would be carried out as a matter of urgency.

The Members also drew the attention of the officers from the NIHE to several further matters, a number of which are set out hereunder:

- the loss of open space due to the significant demand for additional housing in specific areas and the potential to consider green field sites outside the Council boundary;
- the potential inclusion of social housing as part of the redevelopment of the Sirocco site;
- the use of renewable energy solutions;
- housing demand and the subsequent waiting lists;
- the lack of one bedroom accommodation and the potential of occupants facing a bedroom tax charge;
- City Centre living and regeneration which included discussion pertaining to the potential redevelopment of derelict buildings and also the development of living accommodation above shops in the City Centre
- the standard of weed control at Housing Executive properties in the North of the City.

The Chief Executive concluded the presentation by advising that many of the HIP themes were complementary to the Council's Community Planning themes and could contribute to the achievements of the Community Planning outcomes. He stated that the Housing Executive looked forward to developing further its relationship with the Council to achieve the vision outlined in the Belfast Agenda.

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

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Special People and Communities Committee,
Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017**

Contact NI

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the presentation from Contact NI which had been scheduled to take place at this meeting had been rescheduled and the representatives had been invited to present at the meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, 12th September.

Noted.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 8th August, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett, Deputy Chairperson, (In the Chair); Aldermen Rodgers, McCoubrey and McKee; and Councillors Austin, Beattie, Corr, Corr Johnston, Heading, Lyons, Magennis, McCusker, Newton, Milne, Nicholl and McReynolds.

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

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland), the Chairperson (Alderman Sandford) and Councillors Armitage and McCabe.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting of 3rd July.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Items Withdrawn from Agenda

Hillview Amateur Boxing Club and Association of Port Health Authorities

The Committee noted that the above items had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Operational Issues - Verbal Update

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an overview of the operational issues that had affected the Cleansing Services Section as a result of the civic unrest in some areas of the City.

Noted.

Presentation

Belfast Healthy Cities

The Deputy Chairperson welcomed Ms. J. Devlin, Chief Executive, and Dr. D. Stewart, Chairman, Belfast Healthy Cities, to the meeting.

Dr Stewart thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present. He commenced by advising that he was delighted to highlight that Belfast had been chosen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to host its Global Conference of Healthy Cities in 2018, which would bring people from across the world to the City of Belfast. He informed the Members that Belfast was one of the founding members of the Healthy Cities movement and highlighted the vision of the movement, as follows: 'to be a leader in creating a healthy, equitable and sustainable city' and that its mission was 'to promote health and well-being, provide inspiration and to facilitate innovative collaborative action and good policies'.

This was achieved through:

- leadership and learning from the network;
- supporting research, sharing evidence and building capacity;
- piloting innovative concepts and approaches; and
- maximising partners impact on health and inequalities.

The representative advised that all Government Departments' policies and initiatives affected health and health inequalities and helped shape the living conditions that impacted on the health of the population.

Dr Stewart advised that Ms. Devlin would detail to the Members some of the work currently undertaken by Healthy Cities. Ms. Devlin commenced by highlighting to the Members the evolving challenge of public health. She stated that during the 19th century the problems and challenges faced by people were malnutrition, overcrowding, poor housing, water supply and sewage disposal. She continued that, whilst there had been a positive change over the years to many of these problems, today's population faced different challenges; a lack of physical activity, obesity, asthma, mental health issues, isolation, cancer, heart disease and demography, to name but a few.

Ms. Devlin proceeded to detail some of the recent work that Healthy Cities had undertaken in respect of Healthy Urban Planning and Child Friendly Places. She reported that there was a strong preference across groups for more green spaces, increased clean public spaces and calmer traffic. She specifically highlighted the work of KidsSpace, explaining that this was a large scale event which explored the creation of child friendly space in the City centre. Since 2011, KidsSpace events had transformed Victoria Square, CastleCourt, St Anne's Square, Buoy's Park, Writers Square and Belfast City Hall into welcoming spaces for families and children.

Dr Stewart informed the Committee that Healthy Cities worked in five year cycles and that the Phase VI Programmes (2014-2018) would continue to address the health inequalities and the challenges outlined above. The representative then outlined the work of Belfast Healthy Cities within the context of the Belfast Agenda and the important role

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**

that Belfast currently played within the Healthy Cities movement. He concluded the presentation by outlining the details of the International WHO Healthy Cities Conference that was being held in Belfast from 1st – 4th October, 2018.

The representatives then answered a number of questions which were put to them by the Members and, having been thanked by the Deputy Chairperson, they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Matter Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion - Dog Friendly Badging Scheme

It was agreed that the aforementioned report would be deferred until the September meeting to enable Councillor McDonough-Brown, the proposer of the motion, to be in attendance.

Committee/Strategic Issues

**Acknowledgement of thanks Re:
Donation for the Purchase of Defibrillators**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th June, it had agreed that representatives of the family of the late Mr. Mark Murphy would be invited to a small reception to acknowledge their generous donation which would be used for the installations of defibrillators in public accessed playing field and parks.

The Democratic Services Officer reported that the family had requested that rather than attending a reception, they would prefer to make the presentation at the location of Cherryvale defibrillator.

Noted.

Waste Collection Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Members with an update on waste collection services and, in particular, implementation of the Route Optimisation exercise.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the issues which have occurred with waste collections and the actions which are being taken to improve the service.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** In February 2015, the Council commissioned a route optimisation exercise to review and improve the efficiency of its waste collection services. This methodology is used by the majority of Councils. The new, optimised, collection routes were implemented in October 2016. Members will be aware of the previous issue around the delivery of letters to households, leading to a period of confusion as many residents' collection days changed and this had not been properly communicated. This was rectified as quickly as possible and the Council apologised to those affected.
- 3.2** The route optimisation mapping exercise shifted the Council from the previous area based working to a much more detailed, individual property-based (Pointer) system. It also incorporated the additional 22,000 properties transferring to Belfast arising from Local Government Reform. As part of this exercise, the route optimisation mapping and route design, the Pointer Plus and Ordnance Survey data provided the actual number of households in Belfast, which now stands at around 165,000.
- 3.3** As with the introduction of any new route and/or collection system, it was anticipated that there would be an initial impact on the general public as they and staff sought to familiarise themselves with the changes. It was previously reported to members that the initial issue with the letter drop impacted further on this settling in period. In order to ensure that any potential difficulties during this transition period were operationally managed, especially important in the run up to Christmas when residual waste arisings increase, additional temporary squads were introduced. The agreed approach was to reduce the number of these squads over a phased period as collection routes started to normalise. The phased reduction of these squads has been impacted upon, for example by the gradual increase in residual waste which has been occurring since 2014 (the base data year for the route optimisation exercise), but also by the introduction of the 'No Food Waste' campaign.
- 3.4** In April 2017, the former Head of Cleansing Services retired and responsibility for Waste Collection transferred to the Head of Waste Management. Members will be aware that the Waste Management team have been drafting the recently approved Waste Framework to identify options so that

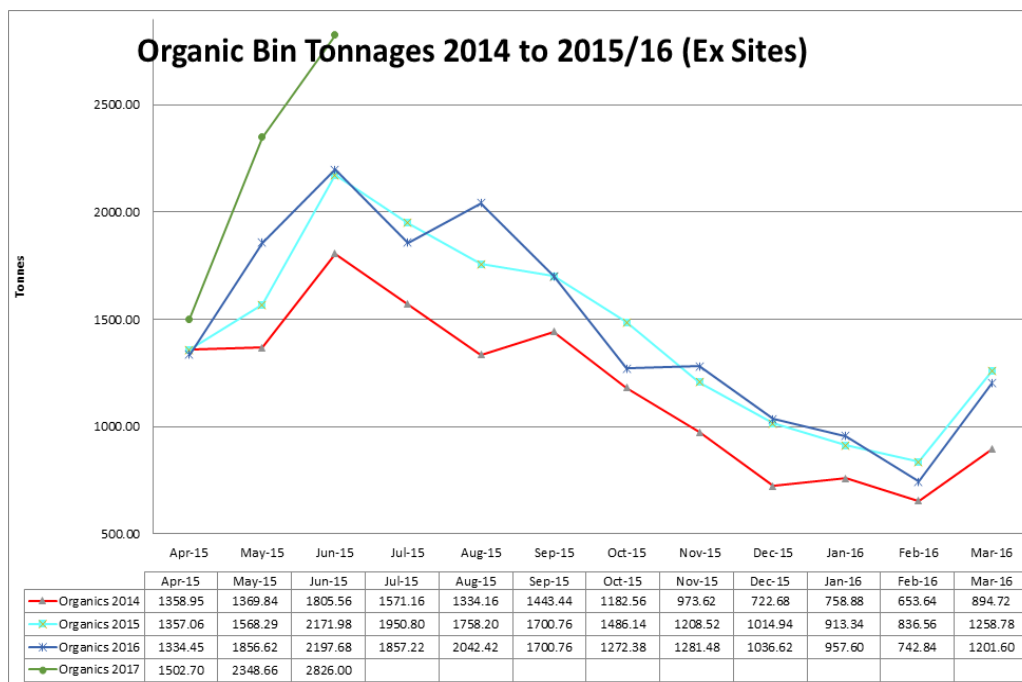
emerging legislative requirements, changes in the local marketplace, Arc21's residual waste treatment facilities or alternatives, and Brexit could all be addressed over the next decade. Several of the options identified have a bearing upon Waste Collection arrangements and were integral to the drafting of the Framework. The Service has been considering how expenditure could be minimised, efficiency savings could be delivered and revenues maximised, using scenarios to achieve a 50% household waste recycling target and aligning with the Belfast Agenda objective to create jobs.

- 3.5 It is worth reiterating that further changes associated with Waste Collection are likely to be needed to support aspects of the Waste Framework. Some of these proposals will be issued for public consultation in Qtr. 3 this year.

Food Waste Collections

- 3.6 The introduction of a 'No Food Waste' campaign aimed at tackling the amount of food waste contained in the residual bin was estimated to increase the Council's recycling rate by 1% and result in a reduction in expenditure of around £75,000 per annum, excluding incidental costs.
- 3.7 This campaign was launched at the end of April 2017 and resulted in a surge of interest requesting information, new containers and food waste bags. The Service's calls to the waste helpline increased from around 3,500 per month, to approximately 27,000 in May. The campaign also resulted in the delivery of an additional 5,000 brown bins, 16,000 kitchen caddies and over 4,000 kerbside boxes and external food waste bins. Since then, calls and requests are returning to a lower level, albeit higher than before the food waste introduction.
- 3.8 Table 1 shows that this scheme is beginning to produce significant results. In Qtr1, kerbside organic bin tonnages are up 24% on the same period last year. However, given that this coincides with the peak growing season, which may mask the impact of the food waste campaign, a more prolonged time frame is required to determine the full impact of the campaign and when available it is the intention to bring a more detailed analysis to Members.
- 3.9 *Table 1: Increased kerbside organic tonnages collected in Qtr. 1*

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**



3.10 Despite this relatively short time frame, what is apparent, is that the No Food Waste campaign has delivered a shift in residents' behaviour with a sizeable proportion of the food waste which is now being collected separately in the brown bin or green external food waste caddy, previously simply dumped into the residual waste bins. Therefore, the distribution of materials in the different bins has started to change. Should this desired behaviour be maintained longer term it is essential that a re-balancing of resources amongst the collection fleet is conducted in order to achieve the optimum resource levels for the dry recyclables, organic and residual crews. Given the changing nature of waste, collection systems, housing stock and population trends it is highly likely that recalibration of collection rounds and resources will be required on a more regular basis than previously.

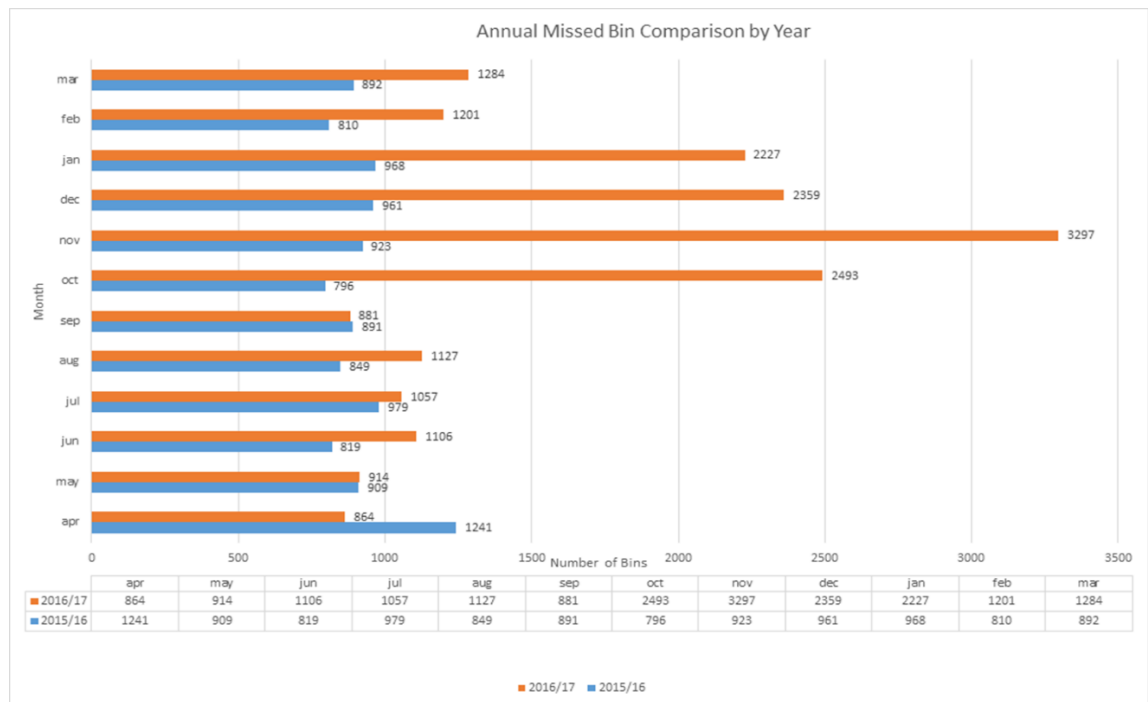
Performance

Missed Collections

3.11 In terms of total numbers, there are approximately 8 million bin collections in Belfast annually, of these over 18,000 missed bins (blue, brown & grey) were recorded in 2016/17. This was an increase of around 7,800 on the previous year's figure although still less than 1%. As shown in Table 2, much of this increase is related to the impact of the route optimisation exercise which commenced in October 2016 and

the impact of the letters. Comparing the last two years' data, the level of missed bins increased by around 25% at the half year mark, but this rose to double the level for the second half of the year, coinciding with the introduction of route optimisation.

3.12 Table 2: Comparison of Missed Household bins (15/16 v 16/17)



3.13 Missed bin collections spiked during Oct 16 – Jan 17. Since then the picture has improved markedly. Comparative analysis of Qtr. 1, this year shows that missed bin collections are up around 23% on the previous year (pre-route optimisation). In particular, missed collections rose in May & Jun of this year, primarily due to the increased demands on the brown bin collection crews as a result of the No Food Waste campaign (as noted above) and the onset of the growing season. Worth noting is the fact that residual waste bin missed collections actually fell by 11% during the same period last year. In terms of the number of customer complaints for Qtr. 1, this year versus last year (pre route optimisation). As expected, the complaints trend mirrors that of the missed collections.

Review of Route Optimisation exercise

- 3.14 In order to also provide an independent view on the impact of route optimisation Resource Futures was contracted by BCC to review the council's waste collection services in order to assess the potential causes of the crews being unable to complete their allocated rounds and identify potential solutions that could be implemented to resolve these issues. Their review has concluded that the route optimisation project has been successful in achieving the expected route analysis, and taking into account the subsequent change in collection days due to the Christmas period, the Council were very much in line with industry norms for the length of time we had experienced service delivery issues.
- 3.15 The report also recognised that there is room for improvement in productivity with the general waste squads. The data analysis can be used as a useful tool for improving performance management of the squads going forward and from which continuous improvement can be driven. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have also been drafted to help drive that improvement. An action plan will be developed which will be key to maintaining commitment to, medium and long-term view of operational improvement and will enable the success of the project to be more wholly realised.

Immediate Action

- 3.16 Experienced officers have been tasked with immediate effect internally, from City and Neighbourhood Services to address this and focus on resolving the missed bins issue and improve the customer experience. A detailed action plan will be brought back to committee identifying the medium and long term changes which will help to improve productivity and take into account the new Waste Framework which will require significant decisions on collection methods in the future.
- 3.17 It should also be noted that Audit Governance & Risk Services (AGRS) will be conducting a review of waste collections in this financial year. The objective of this audit will be to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes within waste collections. This will include recommendations for improvement which will be agreed between AGRS and City and Neighbourhoods. This will provide Members and senior management with assurance to assist them in fulfilling their duties to the organisation and its stakeholders and helps to ensure that Corporate objectives will be achieved.

HR/Financial/Asset/Equality Implications

- 3.18 There are no human resource, financial or equality implications associated with this report however there may well be human resource and financial implications associated with any future route re-balancing exercises, along with asset implications arising from the implementation of the Waste Framework.”**

Several Members expressed concern at the overall efficiency of the service and highlighted the number of complaints that they had received from constituents in respect of missed waste collections, the lack of assisted lifts and delays in answering telephone complaints.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which the Members acknowledged the actions which had already been implemented to try and resolve the situation. A Member suggested that, given that this was a frontline service, until the situation had been satisfactorily resolved that monthly update reports be submitted to the Committee.

The Committee:

- noted the issues which had occurred with waste collections and the actions which had been taken to improve the service; and
- agreed that, until the situation had been satisfactorily resolved, monthly update reports would be submitted to the Committee.

Minutes of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development Working Group

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 26th June, the following key issues had been considered:

- update on the business case for Crematorium Development;
- update on the meeting with the other councils regarding the regional discussion on crematoria and cemetery development;
- update on the finding of survey of crematorium users;
- update on the meeting with memorial sculptors; and
- update in respect of the permanent memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 26th June 2017.

Review of Naming Policy

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to allow Party briefings to take place.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

**Variation to Sydenham Bowling Club
Facilities Management Agreement**

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that Sydenham Bowling Club had been a key holder at the Inverary Bowling Pavilion for approximately 20 years and it had provided a valuable service to the sport of bowling and to the local neighbourhood.

The officer detailed that, following a recent review of the Facilities Management Agreement (FMA) between Belfast City Council and Sydenham Bowling Club, a variation to the existing FMA had been proposed whereby key holding arrangements would revert to the Council.

Following a query, the officer clarified that this would be an interim arrangement which had been agreed on a mutual basis for a period of six months after which arrangements for the use would be reviewed and changed accordingly in agreement with the club.

The Committee approved the proposed variation to the Facilities Management Agreement.

**Review of Management Arrangements
for the Pitch at Sally Gardens**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the Management Arrangements at Sally Gardens.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **agree to continue with a management agreement in respect of the 3G pitch, to include the changing pavilion upon completion; and that Legal Services prepare a suitable agreement to outline the terms of the agreement. The Committee is asked to agree that the duration of the agreement be extended to 3 years and that a review of arrangements is carried out in advance of this period ending to determine the effectiveness of the arrangements and future requirements.**

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Committee is reminded that its meeting on 9th February 2016 it received a report, a copy of this is available on modern.gov which set out the arrangements agreed under Local Government Reform in respect of land and facilities at Sally Gardens which had previously come under the Lisburn City Council boundary.

3.2 In subsequent meetings the Committee approved a pilot management arrangement in respect of the newly constructed 3G artificial turf pitch. It was agreed at meetings in April 2016, September 2016 and in February 2017 to pilot a management process. This was initially piloted and reviewed and subsequently extended to allow adequate time to consider the arrangement.

3.3 A list of the duties undertaken by Poleglass Association is available on modern.gov.

3.4 Feedback from the Park Manager and the Council's Booking Office have confirmed that the arrangement with the Association has worked well and that they have fulfilled the duties required of them. It has been noted that the Association deals with issues around unauthorised use and reports any damage to the facility, normally the fencing. To address this particular issue the Association has put in place an intervention programme with local young people and while still in its early stages appears to be working.

3.5 The Association also manage the Community Centre and is able to provide a joined up offering of services to the community and integrate the pitch with wider community activities. The Association had hoped to increase usage during the traditional off peak hours but has not yet realised this. It does however intend to continue to promote use of the facility.

3.6 A brief summary of the figures from August 2016 to July 2017 inclusive are provided below.

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Bookings*	77	72	91	82	46	122
Full Pitch	50	40	46	45	30	70
Half Pitch	22	32	45	37	16	52
Adult	28	22	29	27	0	11
Concession	41	50	62	47	46	111
Income £	3,875	2,924	3,766	3,351	1,956	4,365

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**

	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Bookings	140	150	87	71	67	46
Full Pitch	78	78	54	36	32	18
Half Pitch	62	72	33	35	35	28
Adult	12	25	8	6	7	4
Concession	114	117	71	65	60	42
Income £	5,827	6,559	2,986	2,340	2,116	1,653

- **This total includes match bookings. Bookings and income are processed through the Council's Pitch Booking line. An agreed method is in place to deal with last minute bookings on site.**

- 3.7** Members will note that the usage figures fluctuate over the period of the past year. The low figures in December and from April to July are essentially consistent with the end of the soccer season. Members will also note that many of the bookings are for concessions, i.e. under 19's. Members are also asked to note that the main use is for training. It is hoped that the construction of the new changing pavilion, scheduled to complete in August 2017 will facilitate greater use of the facility by adults and also to accommodate more competitive matches.
- 3.8** The Committee is reminded that a changing pavilion is currently under construction on the site. This has been funded jointly by the Council and the Department for Communities and is scheduled to be completed August 2017. This will enable matches to be played on the facility and will make it more attractive to users, existing and potential.
- 3.9** The opening and closing of the new changing pavilion will be undertaken by the Association who will also clean the facility. Maintenance will however be a Council responsibility.
- 3.10** The Association is satisfied with the arrangement, they have stated that the short term nature of the agreement creates an element of uncertainty and as such it is unable to fully plan ahead. The association would therefore welcome the continuation of the management agreement and would welcome a longer period of agreement.

Options

- 3.11** Members have three main options:

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**

1. Agree not to continue with the agreement and to absorb the duties within existing financial arrangements.
 2. Agree to continue with the agreement on a short term basis; and
 3. Agree to continue with the agreement and extend the period to 3 years, with a review carried out by Officers and a report provided to Members in advance of this period ending.
- 3.12 In relation to Option 1, this is discounted. Members are reminded that there was an agreement with Lisburn City Council that the facility would be managed by the Association and that under LGR the Council is honouring this legacy agreement. In addition the relationship with the Association is a good one and it appears to be working well. The Association provides an on site presence and can cater for last minute bookings which may be difficult for the Council to emulate.
- 3.13 In relation to Option 2, this is discounted as we have been operating under short term agreements for the past year and been reviewing the arrangements. The Association has already indicated a preference for a longer period of agreement which would enable it to take a more proactive and longer term approach to the use of the facility.
- 3.14 It is therefore suggested that option 3 be agreed.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.15 The monthly management fee has been incorporated within the area budget and includes management of the new pavilion.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**East Belfast Football Club - Request to Install
Temporary Hospitality Room on Council Land**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Committee that the Council has received a request from East Belfast Football Club to install a hospitality room on council land at Alderman Tommy Patton Park (Inverary Playing Fields).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **note the report and to agree in principle, subject to the conditions being met and subsequent approval by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:**

- 1. To grant a licence to East Belfast Football Club to locate a temporary building on a piece of council land to be agreed with Council Officers;**
- 2. That the licence will run co-terminously with the existing Partner Agreement and that in the event that the Partner Agreement ends the licence will also terminate;**
- 3. That the Club secures the necessary statutory approvals, including planning consent before a licence is granted;**
- 4. That the Club provides evidence of its health and safety policy, safeguarding policy, insurance cover and meets any other requirements as deemed appropriate and necessary by Officers;**
- 5. That the Club meets all of the associated costs and agrees to undertake the management and maintenance of the facility in line with the terms and conditions of the licence and is aligned to the sports development plan agreed as part of the Partner Agreement; and**

2.2 In addition, it is recommended that the Council agree to the storing of the facility on this site at a location to be agreed with the Park Manager and that the Director of Property & Projects asked to use his delegated authority to enter into an appropriate licence agreement with the Club for a period not exceeding 6 months.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 The Council has received a request from East Belfast Football Club to install a hospitality room on council land at Alderman Tommy Patton Park. A copy of the request, photographs of

the structure and an outline of the proposed location is available on modern.gov.

- 3.2 The Club currently hold a partner agreement with the Council which is due to end on 1st September 2020, with the option to extend to September 2022. They play in the Intermediate League of the Northern Amateur Football League. The Club retains ambitions to progress to higher leagues and within this context it is seeking to enhance the facilities available to the club by seeking consent from the Council to install a temporary building which would allow the club to offer pre and post-match hospitality. It is also proposed that the facility could be used to support the programme of activities undertaken as part of the Partner Agreement.
- 3.3 The cost of the building, it's installation including connection of the services and internal fixtures fittings and equipment will be met through the Club, the building itself is being gifted to the Club. The building will be owned and managed by the club and there will be no contribution from the Council.
- 3.4 Council Officers have had a preliminary meeting with representatives from the Club and have advised that planning consent will be required. This will be sought by or on behalf of the Club.
- 3.5 The club had initially suggested that the proposed location of the building would be as indicated. It has been suggested by Officers that the size of the building (12m x 6m) plus additional security fencing would be a tight fit and would be too close to the soft play area at the rear of the community centre. The alternative option would appear to be to install the building further to the right on the opposite side of the path visible on the aerial photograph.
- 3.6 Section 20 of the Partner Agreement does not permit the 'Partner' to install or construct any building, therefore the Club is seeking consent from the Council. The club has been advised in writing that the terms of the license would require compliance with terms of the Partner Agreement and Council Bye Laws for the site.
- 3.7 The club is therefore seeking consent from the Council to install a temporary building for hospitality on an area of council land adjacent to the existing main pitch at Alderman Tommy Patton Park and is seeking permission to temporarily store the building on the site, on a location to be agreed with the Park Manager while the necessary approvals are sought.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.8 There are no financial implications, although a licence fee will be charged.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.9 There are no implications.”**

Following a query, the Assistant Director confirmed that there was no other examples of such a ‘hospitality room’ at other Council-owned locations dedicated to hospitality. She acknowledged that some teams did provide post-match hospitality at some sites but that this did not involve the consumption of alcohol, in compliance with the Council byelaws. Several of the Members stated that if approval were to be granted they would be concerned that it would set a precedent for other clubs seeking a similar arrangement.

A further Member stated that it was his understanding that a decision had been taken in the past that no portable cabins would be allowed at sports facilities unless they were for temporary changing facilities.

The Assistant Director undertook to clarify the detail of this and to report back to a future meeting.

A Member expressed concern that the temporary structure had already been moved to the location before approval had been sought.

Following discussion, on a vote by a show of hands, five Members voted for the recommendation and ten against and it was therefore agreed not to grant permission to East Belfast Football Club to install a temporary hospitality room on Council land. It was also agreed that, given that the portable cabin was already in situ, it be removed from the site as soon as was practically possible.

**Connswater Community Greenway –
Naming of Third Series of New Structures**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 8th March, it had agreed to proceed with the third phase of the consultative naming process to name a further six new structures which were being constructed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway. The Assistant Director advised that, although the process initially focused on a total of six structures (two pedestrian bridges, two links/paths and two playgrounds), a decision had been made to omit one of the structures, the playpark at Flora Street, from the final vote stage of the process after one of the preferred name options had been identified as ineligible in regard to aspects of the Council’s naming policy. She reported that the process of naming the new Park at Flora Street was currently on hold until a review of the Council’s naming policy had been undertaken and she reminded the Members that, as agreed earlier in the meeting, this report had just been deferred to enable Party briefings to be held.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**

She advised that the naming process had involved a three week consultation period in April, during which the public had the opportunity to submit ideas for the names for each structure in line with the Council's naming policy. Following that, a panel of judges had met and considered the submissions and shortlisted two or three for each structure. The public then had then once again been invited to vote, during this process a total of 1470 votes had been cast.

The Members noted that the final structure name proposals had been determined by the majority votes for each and within the context of the Belfast City Council Naming Policy.

The Committee approved the following name preferences that had emerged from the consultative naming process:

1. **'Ropeworks Bridge'** at Connswater Shopping Centre and Retail Park;
2. **'Veterans Bridge'** at Alexander Road;
3. **'Dairy Lane'** connecting Ladas Drive to Montgomery Road;
4. **'Daddy Winker's Lane'** connecting Ladas Way to Castlereagh Road; and
5. **'Daddy Winker's Play Park'** at Loop River.

Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre - Proposed Possession

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre has become vacant and the former occupier Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre Limited (UAYC) has dissolved. The Council owns the land and had entered into an Agreement for Lease with the former UAYC although the Lease was never executed. This report seeks approval to take possession of the Youth Centre and bring it into operational Council use.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to terminate the Agreement for Lease to take possession of the property, subject to approval from SP&R Committee and further subject to the funder providing formal confirmation that it does not wish to exercise step in rights.**
- **Agree to bring the property into operational use by the Council subject to assessment of condition and need – consideration of the purpose/use to be considered by the North Area Working Group.**
- **Alternatively seek to sell the property for a capital receipt if no viable alternative use exists**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre is situated off Alliance Drive on Council owned land at the south east of Ballysillan Playing Fields. It was constructed circa 2007 and comprises a single storey brick built building laid out to provide partitioned meeting room, office, youth room and ancillary facilities, together with external yard space and grassed area.
- 3.2** The Council entered into an Agreement for Lease with UAYC on 25 October 2007 to facilitate construction of a Community Centre and Community Garden. Issues arose with regard to rental and the Lease did not complete, however, the Company built and then occupied the premises for a number of years. The Company was dissolved on 26 July 2013 and the property is currently unoccupied.
- 3.3** We have obtained legal advice which confirms that under the terms of the Agreement for Lease the Council may terminate the arrangement and take back the property, (unlike some situations in seeking to recover a property from a dissolved company it is not necessary to liaise with the Crown Solicitor's Office as the Agreement for Lease contains provision for termination in the event that the Lease is not granted). Recovering the property would be subject to the funder not opting to exercise step in rights.
- 3.4** The former UAYC had obtained Urban II funding through the former North Belfast Partnership (NBP). Under the terms of the Agreement for Lease the Council would require to offer the funder the opportunity to take an assignment of the Agreement for Lease and complete the lease with the Council. The Department for Communities (DFC) as successor to NBP has however already given an initial indication that they have no interest in the subject property.
- 3.5** In terms of future use it is proposed that it be brought into operational use by the Council subject to a condition survey and assessment of need in the area, with the purpose to be agreed through the North Area Working Group.
- 3.6** A further report will be brought to Committee in terms of condition and future use.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.7 Resource is required from Legal Services, Estates Management Unit and City and Neighbourhoods officers in connection with taking possession.**
- 3.8 Revenue and resource costs in terms of staff resource and ongoing property costs will need to be reviewed in the context of condition and operational use.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.9 No equality or good relations implications.”**

A Member stated that, whilst he had no difficulty ‘in principle’ with the recommendation, he felt that the request should be considered within the context of the ongoing Community Centre Facility Review.

The Assistant Director clarified that bringing this building back into the ownership of the Council would in no way pre determine its future use. She stated that, in the event that the Council decided not to use the building and if no alternative viable alternative existed, the Council could in the future seek to sell the property for a capital receipt.

Several Members concurred with the Assistant Director and stated that they felt that the Council should take possession of the property as its future use would be agreed at a later stage.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was:

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Austin,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter to enable it to be considered within the context of the Community Centre Facility Review.

On a vote by show of hands, eight Members voted for the proposal and eight against. There being an equality of votes, the Deputy Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was declared carried.

Environment

**Northern Ireland Landfill Scheme (NILAS)
Reconciliation for 2016/17**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise Members on the current position for 2016/17 for the six councils within the Arc21 region and consider the application of the agreed Arc21 NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) transfer protocol.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Approve the transfer of allowances to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, subject to approval at the Arc21 Joint Committee meeting in August 2017.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that councils are permitted to landfill a proportion of their residual waste on a progressively reducing annual basis. The Department of the Environment (DOE) set these annually reducing targets between 2006 and 2020 on a council-by-council basis, called the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS), in order to deliver the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive (LFD).

3.2 Since 2008, across the Arc21 region, a protocol has been in place relating to the transfer of excess NILAS allowances between constituent councils, should this be required.

3.3 As Members may be aware, the Arc21 Joint Committee endorsed a NILAS Transfer Protocol which was agreed and ratified by all the constituent councils. The principle of the protocol is for any constituent council with excess allowances in any given scheme year to make them available for transfer to any other constituent councils, should they require them to meet their allocation.

3.4 The adoption and implementation of the protocol has ensured that Arc21 councils maximise their excess allowances should the need arise and is a tangible example of Arc21 being a beacon of partnership best practice. It also gives the councils some protection in the event they do not meet their allocation for whatever reason.

3.5 The Protocol comprises the following;

- **Excess annual allowances to be collated and totalled at Group level (known as GEA – Group Excess Allowance)**

- GEA distributed amongst those constituent councils requiring additional allowances to meet their annual NILAS allocation
- Each council's allocation from GEA shall be calculated in proportion to the population or utilising an alternative method duly agreed. Where applicable, the total amount to be transferred shall not exceed the total required to meet that council's annual NILAS allocation. This step shall be repeated until either all constituent councils meet their annual NILAS allocation or the GEA has been exhausted and
- Thereafter, the formal transfer procedure outlined in Regulation 7 of the Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 shall be complied with.

3.6 With regard to 2016/17, the NILAS reconciliation currently indicates that one council; Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has exceeded its annual allowance. Accordingly, the agreed Arc21 protocol requires initiation and the report outlines the outworking's in respect of the transfers of allowances. It should be noted the actual amounts are still indicative and may change when these figures are finalised, typically in the autumn. It is intended to make a written progress report to the August meeting of the Arc21 Joint Committee for noting. The current position and the calculation of the allowances for the 2916/17 protocol is available on modern.gov.

Key Issues

- 3.7 The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has released the draft NILAS reconciliation position for Councils regarding 2016/17. Belfast met its NILAS obligations and used 98.5% of its landfill limit.
- 3.8 One council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council exceeded its obligations requiring the triggering of the Arc21 Transfer of Allowances protocol. The principle of the protocol is for any Arc21 constituent council with excess allowances in any given scheme year to make them available for transfer to any other constituent councils, should they require them to meet their allocation.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Green Flag Award

The Assistant Director informed the Committee of the successful achievement of the seventeen Green Flag awards for the City and Neighbourhood Services Department's parks and open spaces, underlying the contribution to the City and its neighbourhoods.

The Committee was reminded that in 2017 two new entries had been submitted - Tullycarnet Park and Dunmurry Village. She advised that both of these had achieved the Green Flag status and this year it was proposed to put forward another three new sites.

She outlined that the cost for submitting the proposed Green Flag applications and assessment was approximately £10,000 which had been included in the department's budget.

The Committee:

- noted the achievement of the seventeen Green Flag Awards across the City of Belfast in 2017; and
- granted permission for three additional submissions to the Green Flag Awards for accreditation in 2018: Connswater Community Greenway and the City Cemetery for Green Flag Awards and the Tropical Ravine, Botanic Gardens for the Green Flag Heritage Award, along with the resubmission of the existing Green Flag sites (twenty entries in total).

Operational Issues

World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities – Invitation to attend Event

The Committee was advised at the World Health Organisation – European Healthy Cities Political Vision Group meeting was being held in Cork during September 2017. The Assistant Director advised that this would provide an opportunity for an Elected Member to engage with other political representatives from across Europe, to discuss the key themes for inclusion in the 2019-2020 phase of Healthy Cities within Europe.

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), to represent Belfast City Council at the World Health Organisation, Healthy Cities Political Vision Group Meeting, in Cork in September 2017.

**Service Level Agreement - Northern Ireland
Housing Executive and Belfast City Council
Re: Housing Fitness Inspections**

The Committee considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) within local Councils may be requested by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to undertake specific inspections to assist in the NIHE's response to their statutory housing functions.
- 1.2 Requests for service are initiated by NIHE subject to the demands of that authority.

These requests are responded to by local Councils utilizing suitably trained and competent staff and a report provided to NIHE. A fee and travel expenses is charged by the local Council.

- 1.3 Previously inspection requests from the NIHE outside of Belfast were subject to a Service Level Agreement with the former Group Environmental Health structures on behalf of local Councils.
- 1.4 Local Councils also have their own responsibility for certain provisions under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006 as amended and subordinate legislation. These responsibilities are not subject to this agreement.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- consider and endorse the draft Service Level Agreement with the NIHE and Belfast City Council with regard to the provision of Housing Fitness Inspections and authorise the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to sign the agreement on the Council's behalf.

3.0 Key Issues

- 3.1 This agreement outlines the arrangement between the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department of Belfast City Council.
- 3.2 The objectives of this agreement are:

1. To establish the roles of both parties;
 2. To establish an agreed level of response and performance target;
 3. To set out the financial arrangements
- 3.3 Council shall provide suitably competent and trained staff to carry out the inspections required by the NIHE and shall respond to service requests within the agreed timeframe.

The document has been reviewed by the Council's Legal Services Department.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.4 The NIHE have set the following fees for all District Councils:

Activity	Unit Cost
Inspection report	£150 per inspection and report plus mileage(£0.505p per mile)
Detailed Works Costing report	£100 per report
No access to property	£25 plus mileage (£0.505p per mile)

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.5 There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the delivery of the service level agreement.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Intermediate League Football

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 situation surrounding the review of ground criteria currently being undertaken by the Irish Football Association.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Consider the report and direct Officers to undertake a review of the use of its pitches for association football and to establish a position and policy regarding use of

Council facilities to accommodate Intermediate League Football.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** Members are reminded that at the People and Communities Committee on 10th January 2017 it was agreed, 'given that the Irish Football Association (IFA) was currently undertaking a review of Intermediate League Ground Criteria, which would likely result in revised standards, that representatives from the IFA be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the proposed changes.' The IFA has now responded to the Council's request and has advised that the review is ongoing and that it would be premature at this time to outline proposals, it has however indicated that it will update the Committee once the review is complete. A copy of the existing ground criteria is available on modern.gov.
- 3.2** It is the understanding of Officers that it is likely that the existing facilities will require a higher standard of facilities for those clubs playing at the higher levels of local soccer. It is also possible that the IFA may require that Clubs have a greater degree of control over the facilities which they use, designated, as 'their home'. However, while at this time the IFA is not prepared to clarify matters it does appear likely that any enhanced requirements resulting from the review is likely to have implications for the Council in terms of upgrading of facilities and security of tenure for local clubs.
- 3.3** Within this context Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to undertake a wider assessment of the Council's approach to supporting local soccer clubs.
- 3.4** Members will be aware that there are a number of teams operating within Council facilities who play at what we refer to as Intermediate League Standard. Members will be aware that from time to time they will receive an approach from a local Club who may play at this level and who seek accommodation from the Council, Crumlin Star being a recent example of this. In addition, members may receive requests from Club playing at lower levels but who aspire to higher league status and in preparation seek the allocation of a pitch / facility which they can designate as a home pitch. Members may also receive approaches from teams seeking to upgrade facilities to meet higher standards of ground criteria, on occasion Clubs may seek Council to agree to make the changes and meet the cost, others have accessed funding from a variety of sources and seek Council consent to enhance facilities and may require Council to agree to

providing security of tenure to the Clubs for an agreed period of time.

- 3.5 At present the Council has no clear policy on these issues or indeed criteria by which it might, in a transparent way, assess such requests. Members are therefore asked to consider whether it wishes Officers to undertake to establish such a policy.
- 3.6 In considering this issue at this time Members are asked to reflect on the following background position.
- 3.7 The Council commissioned an updated pitches baseline profile in 2013, while the baseline itself would require updating in terms of new and emerging artificial turf pitches and the changing demands for clubs it nevertheless provides some useful contextual information.
- 3.8 The baseline outlined the existing pitches available at that time. The Council has since that time constructed or partially funded a number of artificial turf pitches across the city and is currently potentially funding additional pitches through BIF and LIF proposals. Council has also acquired additional pitches as part of the Local Government Reform transfer of assets at sites including Henry Jones, Fullerton / Napier Park, Brooke Leisure Centre and Sally Gardens.
- 3.9 Members will be aware that these facilities are used by in excess of 140 teams from across the city and indeed from beyond the Council boundary. These facilities are mainly used for competitive league and cup games and in general they are allocated to Leagues to allocate specific pitches to teams to fulfil fixture requirements.
- 3.10 There are exceptions to this, Members are aware that there are 7 Partner Agreements in place with local clubs and that these pitches are allocated according to an agreed sports development plan and programme of use prepared by the Partner Clubs. These Partner Agreements were awarded following a public advertisement and the application of agreed assessment criteria and run for a 5 year period from 1st September 2015 with the option to extend for a further 2 year taking them up to 2022. In all of these facilities Clubs who are Partner Agreement holders have designated the facilities as their home pitches to respective leagues and in some cases these Clubs play in the Premier Division of the Northern Amateur Football League (Intermediate League) or in most cases a lower Division of the NAFL such Division 1A, 1B or 1C. In some cases Clubs have erected signage to identify the facility as 'the home of'.

- 3.11 In some instances, the IFA ground criteria may restrict the usage of all the pitches where a higher league team is playing at the same time, normally 3 pm on a Saturday. Members are asked to note that in the majority of instances Council facilities will provide more than one pitch tending to range from 2 up in access of 20 (as is the case at Mallusk). The implication of this is therefore that not all Council facilities may be suitable or appropriate for 'Intermediate League Football'.
- 3.12 There are a 4 clubs currently playing at Intermediate League level and who use Council facilities:
- Malachians play at Shore Road Playing Facilities – Malachians have had a long standing agreement with Grove United who have a Partner agreement with the Council;
- 3.13 East Belfast FC Tommy Patton Park on which they hold a Partner Agreement with the Council;
- 3.14 Shankill united play at the Hammer which is leased to the club following funding they secured from Sport NI under the Community Capital Programme;
Immaculata play at Grosvenor recreation Centre having secured a block booking.
- 3.15 The Hammer and Grosvenor are single pitch facilities. Shore Road Playing Fields has 2 pitches which are separated by hedging and which has a temporary changing pavilion in situ and which is currently used by Malachians. Alderman Tommy Patton has 4 pitches, in this instance other Clubs cannot use the changing facilities at times when being used by East Belfast 1sts for matches.
- 3.16 In addition to these, there are 7 clubs who play in Divisions 1 A-C, and who play at Council facilities. There are also a range of other Clubs playing in lower Divisions 2 and 3 who also use Council facilities.
- 3.17 Council pitches are also used by other casual users; they are used by Junior teams playing small sided games and they are used by women's team. Women's league tends to be summer based and a number of pitches are held over and not available for winter use to accommodate this. Members may be interested to know that the baseline survey in 2013 of the 132 teams who replied to the survey 51% had male adult only teams; 27% were youth only; 16% had both adult and youth teams. Only 6% of clubs had adult female teams. Anecdotally we believe that the number of female adult teams has increased owing to an increased focus from the IFA coupled

with an increased supply in the number of artificial turf pitches which enables more use of facilities. The majority of these clubs depend on Council facilities for playing pitches.

- 3.18 The purpose of providing this very brief overview is to demonstrate that the Council provides a life line to a great number of local soccer teams in the city through the provision of accessible pitches. These teams play at a variety of levels and cover all ages and genders. Council is constrained by the number of pitches it has and as some members will recall this was one of the reasons it was agreed to invest in the artificial turf pitches as a means of increasing the availability of pitch provision.
- 3.19 Members are therefore asked to consider whether it wishes Officers to undertake a review of its pitch facilities, profile the level and type of use of the facility, consider the implications of this use; to set out clearly the primary purpose of Council pitch provision in relation to soccer; to set out how these facilities will be used and to what extent it can support Clubs to play at the more senior league level and to consider the implications of this. A report setting out the findings and recommendation will be tabled for consideration at Committee.

Financial and Resources Implications

- 3.20 None.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.21 Equality and Good Relations implications will be considered as part of the review.”

A Member highlighted that the Council owned a significant number of football pitches and outlined the potential cost to the Council if the Irish Football Association (IFA) were to revise its standards and a higher standard of facilities was required. He stated that the IFA needed to consider this as part of its review and stressed that the Council might not be in a financial position to undertake any such required upgrade of facilities.

Following a query, the Assistant Director confirmed that representatives from the IFA had been invited to attend a meeting of the Committee but it had declined the request, stating that as the review was ongoing it would be premature at this time.

The Committee agreed to the suggestion to undertake a review of the use of its pitches for association football and to establish a position and policy regarding the use of Council facilities to accommodate Intermediate League Football.

Horizon 2020 Funding Opportunity - Nature-based Solutions for Inclusive Urban Regeneration

The Assistant Director advised that Committee that through the Horizon 2020 funding call for 'Nature-based solutions for inclusive urban regeneration', the EU Commission wished to support projects that 'would develop solutions inspired and supported by nature and provide sustainable, cost-effective, multi-purpose alternatives to talking challenges faced by cities as a result of increased urbanisation'. She reported that the funding available was a minimum of €10 million and the bid application deadline was 6th September, 2017 with the project running for five years from May/June 2018.

The Committee was asked to note that Future Cities Catapult had identified this opportunity for Belfast and it was being led by the University College Dublin in conjunction with a range of other bid partners (EU cities). Belfast had been elevated to a 'class' of cities called front-followers with a funding estimate of circa €300k, depending on the scope of work and activities that Belfast would be involved in. The officer reported that all of the EU cities involved in the funding application faced similar social and environmental issues and challenges including social inclusion, crime, anti-social behaviour and lack of connectivity, to name but a few. This funding would enable EU cities to develop areas of neglect and bring about significant environmental, social and economic benefits.

The officer detailed that if successful, the funding bid would provide the Council with the following opportunities and benefits:

- the ability to proactively seek advice, expertise, assistance, capacity building and mentoring from other front-runners;
- access to privileged contacts and collaboration with other EU cities;
- ability to deliver and test some small scale activities;
- to embed and replicate the lessons learned from the front-runners into processes and city strategies; and
- to complement and bolster existing green corridor funding programmes.

The Assistant Director outlined that the total funding available for EU cities involved in the overall bid would be approximately €10 million and the funding estimate for Belfast, as a front-follower, would be circa €300k (i.e. funding for staff costs), depending on the actual scope of work and plan of activities and Belfast's involvement in these.

The Committee:

- granted approval, in principle, for the Council to proceed as a front-follower city and involvement in the project development and application phase; and
- agreed that an update report be submitted to a future meeting detailing the funding application and seeking approval to proceed with the application, prior to accepting the letter of offer and signing the project contract.

**East Belfast Community Development Agency -
Community Capacity and Leadership Programme**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) seeking officer representation on a Project Board that had been established to oversee the delivery of a Community Capacity and Leadership Programme (CCLP) in East Belfast.

The officer advised that the CCLP project was funded through the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and aimed to build the core capacity of organisations and individuals within such organisations by developing leadership, community relations and community development skills, knowledge and abilities. The CCLP was targeting 13 Super Output Areas in East Belfast that were within the top 20% of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

The programme would be delivered by a consortium, including the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), Tides Training, Interaction Institute for Social Change and Youth Action NI. It would use a wide range of techniques and processes which would include one to one training, action learning, formal training, round table workshops and mentoring.

The Committee noted that it was anticipated that the board would initially meet on a monthly basis with a reduction in frequency as the project became established. The project had received initial funding for a two-year period.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request from the East Belfast Community Development Agency for officer representation on a Project Board, which would oversee the delivery of a Community Capacity and Leadership Programme in East Belfast.

Launch of Candle Sculpture Project: Belfast - Boston

The Committee was advised that, at its meeting on 6th December 2016, it had approved the donation of €1,000 towards the creation of a stone candle sculpture which would be gifted to Boston, as a sister City of Belfast, as part of a global initiative to highlight organ donation.

The Assistant Director reported that a commemorative event would be held on 30th November, 2017, during which the sculpture would be gifted by each of Ireland's five major cities, Belfast, Dublin, Cork, Galway, Derry/Londonderry to the respective cities, Boston, Cape town, New Delhi, Melbourne and Barcelona.

The Committee noted that the sculptures would be located in centres of transplant excellence/education in each city, which would add huge potency to the image and message of this global commemorative project. It was further noted that Belfast City Hospital was currently in the process of planning a ceremony to mark the occasion in Belfast which would also be held on 30th November.

The Committee was advised that the total cost would be in the region of £3,000 which could be accommodated within existing budgets.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 8th August, 2017**

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson (or his nominee) and one Council officer to travel to Boston to unveil and launch the candle sculpture, which the Council had gifted to Boston from Belfast, as part of a global organ donor commemorative event which would be held on 30th November, 2017.

**Approval Requested for Church
Service in Lower Crescent Park**

The Assistant Director advised the Members that 'Grow Week' was an annual community week organised by the Crescent Church to encourage communities and individuals in South Belfast to come together and avail of a range of positive activities which were all free of charge.

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the organisers to commence the week's events with a Church Service in Lower Crescent Park.

The Committee granted approval to enable a Church Service to proceed in Lower Crescent Park on Sunday, 13th August to mark the commencement of 'Grow Week'.

Street Naming

The Committee approved:

- the naming in respect of Oldpark Grange, off Oldpark Road, BT14; and
- the continuation of an existing street in the City namely Millburn Court, off Old Milltown, BT8.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 9th August, 2017

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen Kingston and McGimpsey; and
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian,
Dudgeon, Graham, Hargey, Johnston,
Kyle, Magee, McAteer, Mullan and O'Hara.

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

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd July.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Matters Referred Back from Council/ Notices of Motion

Response from the Department for Infrastructure re: limited waiting outside shops

The Committee was reminded that it had agreed that a letter be sent to the Department for Infrastructure requesting that limited waiting be introduced on arterial routes in areas close to bus stops, in order to avoid all-day commuter parking.

The Members were advised that the response stated that the Department had introduced limited waiting in a number of areas along the Lisburn Road, Ormeau Road and Stranmillis Road. It also highlighted that, in conjunction with the Belfast Rapid transit project, it was proposing to implement limited waiting in a number of lay-bys along the Andersonstown Road, Falls Road, Divis Street, Upper Newtownards Road, Albertbridge Road and Stewartstown Road.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

The Committee noted the response and agreed to provide officers with any specific locations for the consideration of the Department.

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

Update on City Centre Fund Acquisition

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Committee with an update on the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) between the Council and McAleer and Rushe, which acquired the former Belfast Telegraph building in October, 2016.

The Members were provided with an overview of the work which was being undertaken regarding the site. The Director advised that a short term license had been agreed with a company to occupy a large section of the ground floor of the site for nine months, with an option to renew for a further nine months. She explained that the interim license would secure an income for the Partnership and would address some of the rates liabilities. The Committee noted that the area would be temporarily used as a venue for entertainment activity and other uses, and that the Council would work closely with the tenant to jointly programme use of the site at various points throughout the year, including culture night.

The Committee was advised that the long term plan of the Partnership was to secure the BBC as the tenant. It was reported that the LLP was committed to pursuing the BBC as the preferred tenant and that the competitive process would begin later in the year.

In addition, the Chief Executive outlined that the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Communities had informed her that, while Streets Ahead Phase 3 remained a high priority for the Department, the procurement exercise for the project had not progressed any further due to the financial position of the Department for 2017-2018.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that the Department had indicated that unless it was allocated additional Capital resources, the procurement exercise for the construction works for Phase 3 was unlikely to be progressed in 2017-2018. She explained that, consequently, once a Minister was in place, the tender process would have to start from the beginning which could delay the project well beyond the scheduled dates of the University construction work and other sites being developed in the area.

The Committee agreed that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary, with input from the City Solicitor, asking that the Department reconsider its position on Streets Ahead Phase 3, given that a significant amount of public money had already been spent in bringing the project to that stage.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the progress on the former Belfast Telegraph site and the partnership's intention to:

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

- Issue a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) and engage directly with elected representatives, businesses, communities and other stakeholders later this summer ahead of submitting an outline planning application;
 - Undertake branding and marketing of the site to coincide with community engagement and planning milestones; and
 - Continue to develop a design concept in anticipation of a BBC request for proposals; and
2. noted the agreed short term license and the ongoing discussions with other potential occupants from the creative and digital sector; and
3. agreed that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities, to include input from the City Solicitor, asking that the Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 project be reconsidered in terms of the allocation of funding, given that a significant amount of public money had already been spent to bring the project to its current phase.

Requests to Present to Committee

Invest NI Regional Briefing for Belfast

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from Invest NI on the Belfast Regional Briefing 2017 at a future meeting and noted that the Regional Briefing document would be circulated to all Members once finalised.

NI Water

The Committee acceded to a request from NI Water to present at a future meeting.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

City Centre Living - Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report to advise Committee of a suggested approach to develop discussions on city centre living.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- consider undertaking a study visit to examine good practice in terms of city centre housing developments in September 2017;
- note the proposal to facilitate a workshop on the issue of city centre living in October 2017.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 In March 2017, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee received an update on work underway to identify the key issues around liveability and increasing the residential population in the city centre.

3.2 In May 2017, during discussion on the City Centre Programme for 2017/18, Members discussed the importance of addressing the needs of families living in the city centre, in terms of schools and play facilities and noted that a workshop on the issue of city centre living would be held at a future date.

Work Underway or Undertaken to date

3.3 Local Development Plan

A Population and Housing Growth Study was completed in October 2016 to help inform the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP). In addition to this study, a series of Topic Papers were prepared that relate to Population Change and Housing and the City Centre, which offered an opportunity to examine the contribution the City Centre can make to supporting the potential for growing the population of the city.

3.4 The Council undertook an extensive public consultation on the preferred options and engagement with key stakeholders which concluded on 20th April 2017. The Preferred Options Paper noted that there are underused, derelict sites and significant areas of brownfield land which we are encouraged to redevelop by regional policy and which lie within the city centre. The responses to the POP consultation were published this month and it is anticipated that the draft Plan Strategy will be published for consultation in early 2018.

- 3.5 To supplement the preferred options research an Urban Capacity Study is currently underway to identify where any additional housing requirements can be accommodated, including the contribution that the City Centre can make through the re-use of vacant buildings on upper floors and housing as a component of mixed use developments. This will be incorporated into the Plan Strategy which will be subject to an independent examination before it can be adopted as the first part of the new policy framework for the city. Following adoption of the Plan Strategy, the preparation for the Local Policies Plan will be commenced including, where appropriate, work to set out more detailed policies and site specific designations.

3.6 Department for Communities

The Department for Communities undertook a second stage of a Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector with a public consultation exercise on the document taking place between January and April 2017.

The Council's response was reported to the People and Communities Committee on 7th March 2017. The Review set out proposals on:

- Supply
- Affordability
- Security of Tenure
- Tenancy Management
- Property Standards
- Dispute Resolution

- 3.7 In respect of housing supply, which could be of particular relevance in the city centre, it promoted the following proposals:

Supply Proposal 1: Commission work to gauge the appetite of institutional investors with existing portfolios of private rented sector properties in Great Britain to invest in Northern Ireland and the conditions needed to support such investment;

Supply Proposal 2: Explore opportunities to use money available for shared housing through the Fresh Start agreement to incentivise the development of more mixed-tenure housing areas, including private rented accommodation, underpinned by a shared ethos;

Supply Proposal 3: Scope the opportunities with housing associations for greater involvement in the private rented sector.

DfC is currently considering the comments received through the consultation exercise.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)

- 3.8 NIHE have stated that there is a high social housing need for Belfast which has grown over recent years. The latest figures for 2017 show 10,738 households on the waiting list, of which approximately 7,322 were considered to be in housing stress. They note that Housing Associations are finding it increasingly difficult to acquire land for social housing development and advocates that additional land should be made available to Housing Associations to develop much needed social housing. NIHE would like to see sites in Belfast City Centre being made available for affordable housing. Affordable housing includes social rented homes and well as co-ownership housing and NIHE's Shared Future Housing Programme.
- 3.9 On 2nd August 2017, NIHE will be presenting its Housing Investment Plan for Belfast (Appendix 1) to the People and Communities Committee. All elected members will be invited to attend. NIHE has responded to the Council on its LDP Preferred Options Paper and is supportive of promoting affordable housing through the LDP.

Private Housing for Sale and the Private Rented Sector

- 3.10 The NIHE Housing Investment Plan (HIP) notes that the local housing market is slowly recovering from the economic crash of 10 years ago. House prices have increased slowly in recent years but private sector building activity remains low and mortgage lending remains inhibited despite historically low interest rates and prices in Belfast actually fell in the latter part of 2016. There is considerable variation across different property types throughout Belfast. Semi-detached houses and apartments have reduced in price over the past year while detached houses and bungalows have increased. First time buyers are still experiencing difficulty in obtaining mortgage finance; this effectively puts a brake on market activity.
- 3.11 Recent developments such as 'The Gallery', an apartment block at Dublin Road, suggest there is some interest developing in housing for private sale. This might be expected to continue as other sites come forward for development. Housing for sale is another form of tenure required as an important element in a successful and vibrant city centre and home ownership is an integral element within new housing

areas which can create balanced and sustainable communities

- 3.12 The HIP identifies the Private Rented Sector (PRS) as continuing to play a significant role in the local housing market. Local estate agents report that there is continuing strong demand for private rental accommodation at the top end of the market and in the Lisburn Road, Ormeau Road and Stranmillis areas. Terrace properties and apartments bought during the 'buy to let' boom of the early 2000s provide most of the stock in the PRS.

Local estate agents have indicated that key drivers affecting the PRS in Belfast include:

- high demand for private rental;
- no net additional supply;
- high demand and low turnover in the social housing sector;
- job and income uncertainty;
- lower numbers of private new build development;
- lending restrictions;
- an oversupply in certain areas.

- 3.13 PRS will play an increasingly important role meeting the needs of younger households on lower incomes, who in previous decades would have become first time buyers. High levels of demand for social housing in some areas will also continue to underpin the demand for private rented accommodation.

- 3.14 The March 2017 report to Committee on City Centre Living emphasised the importance of the Council working in partnership with DfC and NIHE to determine the contribution that the city centre can make to growing Belfast's population and increasing housing supply. It is proposed that a Members' workshop considering the issues around city centre living would be valuable in taking this process forward. If supported, a study visit to examine good practice in terms of city centre housing developments will be arranged in advance of the workshop to allow best practice ideas to inform and assist at the workshop.

Connectivity with Neighbouring Communities

- 3.15 In addition to a number of apartments in private ownership and private rented tenures at locations such as Adelaide Street, Castle Street/King Street and Victoria Square, it is important to recognise that there are also established residential communities in, and immediately adjacent to the

city centre. At its meeting in May, Committee recognised the importance of engaging with these communities by agreeing that the City Centre Development Team will develop a new engagement plan covering strategic regeneration across Belfast, with specific focus on the city centre and surrounding communities. The plan will engage a wide range of stakeholders, but with a particular aim to involve and empower residents, ensuring impacts are understood and benefits shared. An internal trawl is underway to identify a dedicated resource to develop and implement the strategy.

Finance and Resource Implications

- 3.16 Any additional resource implications associated with this report can be met from approved budgets.**

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.17 Equality and good relations screening will be conducted as required, in parallel with any future proposed consultation process.”**

A Member emphasised the importance of engagement with those communities which currently lived in the city centre while simultaneously seeking to increase the residential population in the city centre. The Member highlighted that it was crucial that Belfast kept a mix of social, privately rented and privately owned housing in the city centre and that it did not follow Manchester’s approach, which had driven working class families out with increased rents. The Member added that, in terms of repopulating the city centre, imaginative thinking was required to redefine how we consider family homes

In response to a further Member’s question, regarding the fact that regeneration powers had not been transferred to Councils, the Director of City Centre Development advised the Committee that, through Local Development Plan, and as the Planning Authority for the City, the Council had the power to determine the mix and use of areas of land.

A further Member stated that, while creative thinking was to be encouraged, not all housing models which were used in London would necessarily work in Belfast.

The Committee:

1. agreed to undertake a study visit to London to examine good practice in terms of city centre housing developments in September/October 2017, and that the Director of City Centre Development would circulate details of the visit to the Committee, with one Member from each of the six main parties permitted to attend; and
2. noted that a follow-up Committee workshop would be held on the issue of city centre living in October 2017.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Capital of Culture - Update Report

The Director of Development updated the Members on the development of the bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to become the UK designated city for the European Capital of Culture 2023.

The Members were reminded that a joint workshop had been held at the Seamus Heaney Centre, Bellaghy, on 19th June where Members from both Councils had explored the opportunities and benefits of progressing the bid, gained insight into the experiences of other European Capitals of Culture in terms of the positive legacy which had been created and shaped the emerging vision and themes of the bid.

The Director advised the Committee that significant progress had been made on developing the bid with a number of activities having taken place, including:

- an official media launch in both cities which had resulted in significant broadcast, print and online coverage;
- an ongoing civic engagement programme with over 2,000 people across both Council areas having directly engaged with the European Capital of Culture team which helped to shape the emerging themes;
- a detailed community engagement through both Councils in terms of summer schemes and activities, as well as partner organisations; and
- a series of sessions with the wider cultural sector to begin to develop programme ideas

He explained that, in order to ensure further Member engagement, it was proposed that a second workshop would be held at the beginning of September. It was outlined that the workshop would provide Members with a detailed update on the engagement process and the associated themes for the bid, an overview of programme content and discussion on the level of financial commitment required and the associated funding strategy.

Given the timelines associated with the submission of the final stage 1 bid, the Director explained that an update report would be submitted to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 13th September, with the final proposal and financial information being submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration on 22nd September, 2017.

The Director informed the Committee that a request had been received for the Lord Mayor to attend the launch of the Belfast International Arts Festival 2017, in New York, on 18th September, 2017. He explained that this would provide a platform to promote the European Capital of Culture bid as part of a three day programme and that there would be opportunities to undertake further engagement on the key themes emerging for the joint bid. As well as engaging with the diaspora based in New York, he

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

confirmed to the Members that invitations would also be extended to sister city colleagues in Boston and Nashville.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the Committee agrees that the Lord Mayor and two officers should not attend the launch of the Belfast International Arts Festival in New York on 18th September, 2017.

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

Accordingly, the Committee considered the recommendations as outlined in the report, namely, that the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report, including the ongoing progress against the critical timelines;
2. noted that a workshop with Members would take place in September 2017, with invites being extended to all Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Party Group Leaders (or nominees); and
3. agreed the attendance of the Lord Mayor, one senior and one accompanying officer to attend an engagement programme, including the launch of Belfast International Arts Festival in New York on 18th September, 2017.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Boston Update and Outward Mission

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- **Update Members on International Relations activity over the summer period, focusing on the city of Boston, and to seek approval for Members’ participation in an October outward mission to Boston in October 2017.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note recent developments with respect to the Belfast-Boston Sister City relationship;
- Agree to the attendance of the Lord Mayor and the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, or their nominees along with one Officer on an outward mission to Boston, during the week of 16–20 Oct 2017. The cost of this visit will not exceed £5,000.

3.0 Main report

Boston Outward Visit

- 3.1 Members will recall that, in March 2017, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016-2021. Members will be aware that this Framework delivers primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through the Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with London.**
- 3.2 This March Committee report also included an annual action plan outlining upcoming events, projects and key opportunities for collaboration with city partners to promote Belfast on the international stage as a place to visit, study, work and do business. This plan included details of a proposed Belfast visit to Boston in the current financial year, subject to agreement with partner organisations.**
- 3.3 Members will be aware that a cross-cutting and high profile delegation from Boston visited the city in June 2017. This visit marked the third anniversary of the signing of the Sister City agreement between Boston and Belfast – the first Sister City agreement signed by Mayor Walsh when he came into office. The delegation comprised senior representatives from a number of fields, including further and higher education, arts and culture and urban regeneration. In addition to meetings with elected members, the representatives also engaged in one-to-one meetings with their Belfast-based counterparts to either explore new areas of collaboration or to build on existing relationships and review how these could move to the next level.**

- 3.4** In advance of the proposed outward visit, Belfast City Council will also host both Boston and Nashville in a joint inward mission from 4 – 6 October 2017. While details of the delegations from both cities are currently being finalised, it is expected that up to 60 representatives across both cities will be in Belfast at that time. In order to maximise the value of the inward visit and to ensure the appropriate level of civic welcome, Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee will be invited to meet the delegates on a number of occasions over the three days. Further details on the draft programme will be brought back to the September meeting of this Committee and invitations to the respective events will be circulated as appropriate.
- 3.5** In order to maintain momentum on the Boston link, an outward mission is scheduled for Autumn. Having spoken to Mayor Walsh’s officials, it is recommended that BCC undertakes this visit during the week of 16 – 20 Oct 2017, to coincide with the Boston Women’s Entrepreneurs week. The City of Boston is keen to identify areas of business collaboration as the next focus of activity under Sister Cities. Having undertaken engagement with local partners and building on an understanding of the emerging opportunities already in the pipeline, it is proposed that the focus of the mission will also be on a number of other priority themes including:
- **Tourism promotion and development:** Building on the opportunity created by the new direct air route by Norwegian Airlines, it is proposed that a tourism showcase event will take place. The Council will work with its strategic partners including Visit Belfast and Tourism Ireland to ensure that the messaging and city proposition is in place and also to secure interest from Boston-based partners interested in promoting Belfast as both a leisure and business tourism destination.
 - **Exploring the opportunities to collaborate in the field of Life and Health Sciences:** Last year, Belfast hosted a joint meeting in Boston of companies operating in this field from Boston, Nashville and Belfast. There are opportunities to expand on this initial engagement and to explore opportunities for local companies to become involved in new export markets.
 - **Co-hosting a cyber security event to explore potential cooperation in this sector.**
 - **Reinforcing the civic linkages:** Mayor Walsh is coming to the end of his first term in office and will be working on his campaign to stand for another term. Given that his first international engagement was with Belfast when he was appointed Mayor, he is keen to review

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

Sister City activity and outputs to date and set the agenda for ongoing engagement between the two cities.

3.6 Staff within the International Relations Unit have commenced initial programme planning with Boston for a mission in the week of 16 – 20 October, and will develop a full programme of events which will reflect the strategic priorities of the International Relations Framework and link the delegation with key city stakeholders in the areas identified above.

3.7 Members will be aware that Boston is one of the three Sister Cities with which Belfast is linked. Members have previously asked that they are kept up to speed with progress and outcomes of International Relations work. A six-monthly update report will be presented to the Committee in September 2017.

3.8 Members are asked to agree to the participation of the Lord Mayor, Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their respective nominees and two officers (one senior) on the above programme for this activity which will be met through the International Unit budget.

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional financial and resource implications.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations implications.”

The Director of Development recommended the attendance of two officers, one of which would be a senior officer, on the outward mission to Boston, given the full programme of events.

He also advised the Committee that, as part of the engagement programme, a Boston-based theatre company would produce four of Samuel Beckett’s short plays at The MAC Belfast, in November 2017.

A Member requested that officers seek to engage with Babson College, Boston, given its links with the Ulster University.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted recent developments with respect to the Belfast-Boston Sister City relationship;
2. agreed to the attendance of the Lord Mayor and the Chairperson of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, or their

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

- nominees, along with one senior officer and one additional officer, on an outward mission to Boston during the week of 16–20 Oct 2017. (The cost of this visit would not exceed £5,000);
3. noted that four of Samuel Beckett's short plays would be brought to The MAC Belfast, in November 2017, by Boston-based theatre company "The Poets' Theatre"; and
 4. agreed that officers would engage with Babson College, Boston.

Belfast Brand - Update

The Chief Executive welcomed Ms. Marie Clarke to the meeting, who had recently taken up the position as Marketing Manager in the City Centre Development team.

The Chief Executive provided the Committee with an update on the roll-out of the new visual identity for Belfast. She reminded the Committee that the new branding would replace the current city identity of the Belfast "B". The Committee was reminded that it had agreed to the new City branding, as presented by McCadden Design at its meeting in May 2017, and that McCadden had since engaged in consultation with a series of the City's stakeholders.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that, while there would be no official launch for the new visual branding, it would gradually begin to be used in a series of flagship projects involving City partners including Visit Belfast, Titanic Belfast, the Belfast Waterfront, Translink and key developers in the City from the end of August 2017.

The Marketing Manager added that the Council would use the new branding in the hoardings around the Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson Leisure Centres which were being redeveloped as well as advertisements for Council-organised events such as the Autumn Fair and the Halloween Monster Mash.

In response to a Member's question in relation to the importance of briefing the media on the new visual identity, the Chief Executive agreed that engagement with the press would take place.

After discussion, the Committee noted the approach for Belfast's new visual identity.

Events and Festivals Funding

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 request approval from Members to financially support a range of music Events and Festivals within the current financial year and during the financial year 18/19 only, pending the outcome of the current strategic review of Events and Festivals. The events are as follows:**

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

- **BBC Music Events 2018/19 (BBC Big Music Weekend, Radio 2 Folk Awards & Proms)**
- **Gradam Ceoil 2017/18 & 2018/19**
- **Féile an Phobail 2018/19**
- **Other Voices 2018/19**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve, in principle, provision of a financial contribution towards some of the costs associated with the following Events & Festivals as part of a potential year of music.**
- **Gradam Ceoil 17/18 - £50,000**
- **Gradam Ceoil 18/19 - £50,000**
- **Féile an Phobail 18/19 - £180,000**
- **Other Voices 18/19 - £40,000**
- **BBC Music Events 18/19 (BBC Big Music Weekend, Radio 2 Folk Awards & Proms) - £200,000**

2.2 Based on the 2017/18 City Events Unit budget £200,000 would be available to support these events in 2018/19. (During 2017/18 City Events Unit have funded the Women's Rugby World Cup, the World B Ice Hockey Championships, the UEFA U-19 Women's Football Championships and the World 24 hour Endurance Race, totalling £200,000. None of these events will take place in Belfast during 2018/19).

2.3 Given the timescales required for the planning of the BBC Music Events it is recommended that the available £200,000 is allocated by Committee to the BBC events. Members should note that if approved, the funding of £50,000 for Gradam Ceoil 2017/18 would come from within existing departmental budgets. This would leave a shortfall in funding of £270,000.

2.4 The Committee is therefore further asked to:

- **Agree to refer the remainder of the funding requirement to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September with a request to give priority to the remaining events and festivals when it is considering in-year re-allocations at the half year or year end.**

3.0 Main Report

Strategic Context

- 3.1** As Members will be aware, Festivals and Events International Consultants have been appointed to develop an Events and Festival Strategy, this will be completed in December 2017. This Strategy will set the direction of travel in relation to the future decisions on Council's funding of Belfast's Events and Festivals for 2019/20 and beyond.
- 3.2** Investment in Events and Festivals strengthens the profile of the City as a culturally vibrant destination, thus supporting the Belfast Agenda and also aligning well with the current bid for European Capital of Culture in 2023. They also reinforce the commitment to build the city's cultural profile and showcase its creative talent. It is considered that support for the Events & Festivals noted in this report will make an overwhelmingly positive contribution towards the promotion of Belfast and its cultural offer.
- 3.3** In the interim period, 2018/19 will effectively be a transition year with regard to funding of Events and Festivals. As a consequence, Members are asked to approve funding towards a range of events and festivals in 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 3.4** The proposals tie in with the Council's Cultural Framework Action Plan and the four strands which are: Distinctly Belfast, Inspiring Communities, Attracting Audiences, and Strengthening the Sector. Additionally, they are also in keeping with the emerging Place Positioning brand.
- 3.5** The Events and Festivals in this report contribute to the use of public space, key conference and cultural venues, community cohesion, tourism, and the Belfast Agenda pillars. 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** It is worth highlighting that the Council has already approved £180,000 in 2018/19 towards the UK National Pipe Bands Championships. This demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment towards innovative and iconic music events throughout the city. The Council also provides funding through a variety of grant schemes for a range of other exciting Events and Festivals throughout the city. As mentioned previously, decisions regarding funding

decisions for 2019/20 onwards will be informed by the outcomes in the Events and Festival Strategy.

- 3.7 The UK National Pipe Bands Championships and the other events noted in this report will all help position Belfast as a unique musical destination, and will undoubtedly have great appeal for both local residents, tourists, and people across the region.

Key Issues

BBC Music Events

- 3.8 Officers have been in discussion with the BBC (BBC NI and BBC national) in relation to staging three significant music events for Belfast during 2018.
- 3.9 The three potential events are as follows:
- BBC Six Music Festival as part of BBC’s Big Music Weekend, Titanic Slipways, 25th and 26th May, 2018;
 - BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Ulster Hall, date tbc; and
 - BBC Proms in the Park, Titanic Slipways, 8th September, 2018.
- 3.10 The first of these would be BBC Radio 2’s National Folk Awards. The Awards celebrate outstanding achievement within the field of folk music, with the overarching aim of raising the profile of folk and acoustic music. The awards have been given annually since 2000. Previous Award recipients have included: Joan Baez, Cat Stevens, John Martyn, Steve Earle, The Dubliners, Kate Rusby, Cara Dillon, Don McLean, The Chieftains, Joan Armatrading and James Taylor.
- 3.11 The event attracts significant national and international media attention and is broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 and via the BBC online TV service. The Awards normally take place in April, however, if approved, Officers would seek to move the event to May 2018 so it could be intertwined with the proposed BBC Big Music Weekend inclusive of the BBC Six Music Festival and the city’s annual Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival.
- 3.12 The second of the proposed events is the BBC Six Music Festival. This would be part of the BBC Big Music Weekend. This would see four days of music across the four Home Nations, with events at: Scone Castle (Scotland); Coventry; Swansea and if approved by Members at the Titanic Slipways on the 25th and 26th May, 2018. In 2017, Glasgow hosted the

Six Music Festival which included the following line up: Goldfrapp, The Jesus and Mary Chain, The Shins, Bonobo, Belle & Sebastian, Depeche Mode and another twenty artists. The event is comparable to the BBC Radio One Big Weekend which was held as part of the Derry~Londonderry Year of Culture in 2013.

- 3.13 The third event would see the return of the BBC's Proms in the Park concert to Belfast. This event has previously attracted and audience of over 11,000 people with up to 75,000 applications for tickets. It is proposed that the live broadcast concert would be staged at the Titanic Slipways and the event would link to national and international audiences across multiple BBC broadcast platforms.**
- 3.14 It is envisaged that the three BBC events would generate extensive economic value for the city as well as extensive positive media coverage.**

Gradam Ceoil

- 3.15 Gradam Ceoil is an annual awards ceremony which celebrates the best of traditional Irish music and song. It comprises a gala event as well as an extensive outreach and engagement programme before the event to maximise impact and economic benefit.**
- 3.16 Gradam Ceoil organisers have approached the Council to explore the opportunity to host the 2018 event. To date, it has been held in cities such as Galway and Cork and it is broadcast live on TG4 and also live-streamed. The overall cost of the event is circa £200,000 with a proposed council contribution of £50,000. It is likely to take place at end of February 2018 in the Belfast Waterfront however there is some flexibility on this date. If the Council supports the event this year, the organisers would be keen to explore the opportunity for a multi-annual engagement (potentially to 2021).**
- 3.17 Based on the experience of the city of Cork, it is estimated that Gradam Ceoil will have a direct economic impact in the region of £300,000 over the weekend, in terms of visitor spend. Furthermore, the live coverage on TG4 and the potential engagement of BBC (particularly BBC radio and online) and BBC Alba (Scottish channel), as well as PBS in USA (broadcast as recorded coverage), will all provide meaningful opportunities to showcase Belfast as a city of music, arts and culture.**

- 3.18** There will be excellent opportunities to advertise and promote the city over the weekend. Gradam Ceoil will help attract new visitors to Belfast and make more people aware of the city's cultural offer.

Other Voices

- 3.19** Members will recall that Committee approved financial support of £40,000 towards the 'Other Voices' event, in Belfast in October 2017, following a report in June 2017. Since this, the organisers have established the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts as the hub for the October 2017 events. As noted in the previous Committee report, it is intended that the 2017 event will be a precursor to a larger Belfast event in 2018 and onwards.
- 3.20** Other Voices has attracted a range of well-known acts since its inception in 2002. These have included Willie Nelson, Ellie Goulding, Gregory Porter, Amy Winehouse and Mumford and Sons. In addition, it has attracted many indigenous acts and has provided a platform to highlight up-and-coming talent. The event is currently broadcast on RTE's television and digital platforms. It also involves a wide range of outreach and engagement activity with local residents and those involved in the culture and arts sector.
- 3.21** The Other Voices team is currently exploring potential funding partners as well as building the local networks at community level to create a solid foundation for future activities. Experience from previous events suggests that it can have a significant economic, social and cultural impact on the local area. Other Voices continues to present an opportunity to demonstrate Belfast as city of musical prowess and to attract excellent media coverage. As a result, it is recommended that Belfast City Council continues to support this unique initiative in 2018/19.

Féile an Phobail 2018

- 3.22** 2018 marks the 30th anniversary / birthday of Féile an Phobail. It is marketed as Ireland's biggest community arts festival and summer school. Féile was established in 1988, as a direct response to the turbulence and conflict at the time. The purpose of the festival has always been to celebrate the positive side of the community - its creativity, energy, passion for arts, culture and sport.
- 3.23** Féile is recognised for its collaborative community approach and it is intended that its 30th anniversary year festival will bring an inclusive programme of events which will

demonstrate good relations in action, attracting more tourism and visitor spend and building increased social and cultural capital.

- 3.24 The organisers are presently undertaking a stakeholder engagement strategy and have commenced consultation and planning for 2018 events. Since July 2017, workshops have been held with over 30 arts, cultural and tourism organisations from across the City. One of the key themes that has emerged from these workshops is ‘ambition’. Taking this theme and the new event space at the Falls Park, they are aiming to attract some of the biggest artists from across the globe in 2018.
- 3.25 For 2018/19, Féile aims to create a year-round programme of inclusive and accessible arts and cultural events, delivered across the City with four specific festivals during the year. This will include 400+ events with an audience reach of up to 100,000 people.
- 3.26 We have committed to support Féile with £39,000 per annum under the Core Multi Annual Fund 2016-2020. However as this is its 30th anniversary, the festival will comprise a much broader scope and audience reach, so Féile has requested support from Belfast City Council totalling £180,000. The festival presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase Belfast as a centre of music, culture and arts, it will increase visitor numbers to the city and will enhance the city’s reputation.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.27 The Events and Festivals will all be equality proofed and there will be a significant complementary suite of outreach and engagement programmes open to all communities.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.28 The financial support required from Belfast City Council for each initiative is as follows:
- BBC Music Events 2018/19 - £200,000 – as noted, from within existing departmental budgets
 - Gradam Ceoil 2017/18 – £50,000 – as noted, from within existing departmental budgets.
 - Gradam Ceoil 2018/19- £50,000
 - Féile an Phobail 2018/19 - £180,000
 - Other Voices 2018/19 - £40,000
- 3.29 In total £470,000 additional funding is required to support these Events. Based on the 2017/18 City Events Unit budget

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

level, £200,000 would be available to support the BBC events in 2018/19. The Gradam Ceoil event requiring a £50,000 would also be funded from within existing departmental budgets. This would leave a shortfall of £270,000. It is further recommended that the Committee agree to refer the remainder of the funding requirement to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in September as a request to give priority to the funding of the remaining events and festivals when it is considering in-year re-allocations at the half year or year-end.”

During discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the Committee agrees to remove the wording *‘to give priority to the remaining events and festivals’* under 2.4 of the recommendations, to read: *‘That the Committee agrees to refer the remainder of the funding requirement to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September, when it is considering in-year re-allocations at the half year or year end’*.

On a vote by show of hands eight Members voted for the proposal and eight against.

As there was an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised her second and casting vote against the Motion and it was accordingly declared lost.

In response to a Member’s question regarding the projected benefits for the City, through hosting the BBC music events, the Director of Development agreed to submit a report to a future meeting.

A Member expressed concerns that the EastSide Arts festival operated on a significantly smaller budget than Féile an Phobail and that the Committee needed to be mindful that it was fair in its funding allocations.

In response to a Member’s question, the Director also agreed to submit a report outlining Féile an Phobail’s rationale for requesting the additional funding for the festival’s 30th anniversary in 2018/2019.

After further discussion, the Committee:

1. adopted the recommendations as outlined in the report; in particular, given the timescales required for the planning of the BBC Music Events, recommended that the available £200,000 was allocated by Committee to the BBC events;

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

2. agreed that organisers from both the Eastside Arts Festival and Féile an Phobail be invited to present to a future meeting of the Committee; and
3. agreed that Festivals and Events International (FEI) be invited to present to a future meeting of the Committee to provide it with an overview of the Events and Festival Strategy.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Educational Inequalities Action Plan

The Director reminded the Committee that the Area Learning Communities had presented, in conjunction with a number of local school principals, to the Committee at its meeting on 14th June.

He advised the Members that many of the city's schools, colleges and universities rivalled the best in the world, with students in Northern Ireland achieving higher grades than their counterparts in all other UK regions at both GCSE and A-Level. He pointed out that, while 60% of pupils in Belfast achieved 5 or more GCSEs, or equivalent, at grades A*-C in 2014/15, that meant that 40% of our young people reaching the age of 16 had not achieved that standard. The Committee was advised that the figure stood at only 35% for those young people which were entitled to Free School Meals (FSME).

The Members were reminded that social disadvantage had a significant impact on educational attainment levels and that the Belfast Agenda contained commitments to ensure that children and young people would get the best start in life.

He presented a number of proposals to the Members, which were linked to the Employability and Skills Framework 2015-2025, and included:

- career advisory and employer engagement initiatives - which would build on existing campaigns such as the Department of the Economy's Connect to Success work experience portal, and would also include paid work placements, with a proposed budget of £70,000;
- development of digital skills - to ensure young people were equipped with the skills required for future industry, with a proposed budget of £60,000; and
- support for targeted activities to help young people who had recently fallen out of the education system - where the Council would work to add value to existing interventions provided by the Prince's Trust, with a budget of £70,000.

The Director confirmed to the Members that the budgets were already available for the work to be undertaken and that they had been approved as part of the estimates process.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

He highlighted to the Committee that, while the above activities were for the 2017/2018 financial year, officers were continuing to engage with government departments and other councils to identify other areas for collaboration.

In relation to the paid, 4-6 week work placements, a Member requested whether students could be identified earlier in the year so that linkages between the students and the companies could be made prior to the placements taking place, in order to increase the likelihood of engagement and full attendance throughout the placement.

The Member also enquired about the use of Belfast Metropolitan's E3 campus, to which the Director advised the Committee that discussions were ongoing in relation to its possible designation as a digital hub.

A Member stated that it was well-known that it was extremely difficult for a child to get a worthwhile placement for their "work experience" week if they did not have the right connections through their parents or family friends.

The Director explained to the Members that, as a key employer within the city, the Council had a vital position in leading the way for employers. He advised the Committee that Business in the Community was launching a new Business Education Charter and was encouraging employers to sign up and pledge their support to engage more organisations in order that 90% of children leaving primary school would achieve level 4 in literacy and numeracy by 2020.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Development agreed to ask the Prince's Trust for a postcode breakdown of where it's funding was allocated to within the city.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted and approved priority actions for development and delivery in conjunction with relevant partner organisations in 2017/18 and approved expenditure of budgets, noting that the skills development budgets had already been agreed as part of the annual estimates process and had been set aside within the Departmental budget; and
2. agreed that Belfast City Council would sign up to the Business in the Community (BITC) Business Education Charter.

Community Based Tourism Proposals

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 work to date on the Community Based Tourism Programme**

- **Seek Members' approval to progress with a number of priority actions under this programme for the 2017/18 financial year.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the contents of the report; and**
- **Consider the key areas of focus for 2017-18 as set out and endorse delivery of the actions and associated budgets as outlined.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Integrated Tourism Strategy was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2015. The Strategy was developed in tandem with the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan and the proposals are aligned to support the future development, economic growth and profile of the city.

3.2 The vision is to develop Belfast as a city that wants to welcome the world and share its history by creating a destination that the world wants to experience first hand. The strategic goal is to double the value of tourism by 2020 with the focus on achieving this by generating discretionary tourist overnight stays, especially higher value leisure and business tourism.

3.3 The strategy sets out a number of priority areas for investment, namely:

- **Visitor management – providing excellence in visitor management standards through our £1.8 million investment in Visit Belfast on an annual basis, as well as securing more recently, coach parking in the city.**
- **Capacity building development – building the capacity of locally-based tourism providers to develop their products and sell more effectively with plans now in place to progress Community Tourism.**
- **Business tourism – supporting investment in business tourism through our investment in the subvention programme in partnership with Tourism NI.**
- **Increased tourism product – particularly through new hotel developments and progress to develop the Belfast Story Visitor attraction.**

- Improved quality of service – improving customer service standards across all hospitality establishments through the provision of training programme such as World Host and training programmes offered through the hospitality academy which is managed by Council's Economic Initiatives team.
- Increased marketing activity – targeting key market segments and partnering with organisations through partnership working with Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland and Visit Belfast.

3.4 Members will be aware that approval was given in May 2017 for the delivery of this year's Tourism Plan. One of the key actions contained within that report was the development of community tourism and the importance of supporting the development of local tourism products across the city which will ensure the benefits of tourism growth are felt across Belfast – not just in the city centre.

Local Tourism

3.5 Since then, Officers have been working with key organisations including Tourism NI and local tourism organisations such as East West Tourism Development Steering Group (involving East Belfast Partnership and Fáilte Feirste Thiar) to identify and explore opportunities for supporting the development of local tourism. From the engagement to date with these organisations, officers have developed a proposal for enhancing local tourism in the current financial year.

Programme Overview

3.6 The aim of the community-based tourism programme is to develop tourism infrastructure across the city, provide support to tourism-related businesses and enhance the product offer in local areas. The programme will focus on enhancing capacity by upskilling local organisations and businesses with a view to improving quality standards and diversifying the product offer and will add value to the current tourism offering. In order to provide oversight and to ensure alignment with wider investment in the sector and with local regeneration activity, the development and delivery of the programme will be overseen by a stakeholder advisory committee which will consist of key tourism bodies such as Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, Tourism Ireland and relevant officers from Belfast City Council. This will ensure that the activities developed complement how, for example, Belfast goes to market and will help all parts of the city to benefit from the projected growth in tourism in the coming years.

Mechanisms for delivery

- 3.7** Officers are currently compiling a baseline of the local tourism infrastructure across the City. This will cover not only the facilities (hotels, restaurants, visitor attractions, tours etc.) but also the level of investment in skills (e.g. World Host) and planned infrastructure investment (new hotels, new visitor experiences such as St Comgall's and Connswater Greenway (both supported by Belfast City Council). Taking account of the likely business growth in tourism and hospitality in the coming years, Officers will work with local tourism organisations to build capacity to ensure that these areas can benefit from the growth and maximise the economic return all across Belfast.
- 3.8** Following engagement with a number of organisations as part of the planning and development work, it is proposed that the first stage of activity will be to work with partners in east and west Belfast. Both have dedicated organisations working to support local tourism (Eastside Visitor Centre and Fáilte Feirste Thiar) and this will be important in acting as a focal point for the programme activity. Both East and West Belfast festivals, cultural organisations and tourism organisations have developed a positive and practical working relationship and have built momentum for future engagement and activity. They have developed initiatives collectively that have had positive outcomes in growing visitor numbers, enhancing product and brand awareness and securing further investment. This proposal, therefore, is to pilot a programme of support this year that will build on the work already undertaken specifically in these areas and to use this as a model of working to support the development and implementation of local tourism frameworks in other parts of the city.
- 3.9** In parallel with the dedicated programme of work in East and West Belfast, Council Officers will engage with relevant local tourism organisations in other parts of the City to see how the local tourism initiatives can be developed in these locations and will bring forward relevant initiatives in conjunction with these organisations, and in line with the broader objectives of this programme.
- 3.10** While the final details of the programme are still under development, it is likely to comprise the following elements:

- **Establishment of a local tourism stakeholder forum**
The development of a localised stakeholder forum who will oversee the delivery of the programme and will include participation from Visit Belfast, Tourism NI and Belfast City Council. This forum will support and develop community-led tourism with Belfast's statutory tourism bodies and will work with local communities to build capacity and develop new investment in key areas.
- **Investment in local staff resources**
For this initiative to be meaningful in its implementation, partners have identified the need for dedicated resources. It is proposed that this approach is tested out in the east and west of the City in order to evaluate how this can drive the sectoral development activities. Council Officers from the Tourism Development team will work closely with the local staff to ensure alignment with wider Council and Tourism NI activity and to share lessons across other local areas.
- **Capacity Building**
A series of masterclasses/workshops will be delivered that will be needs-led and build the capacity of local organisations and businesses. A number of businesses will also be targeted to avail of programmes such as the World Host accredited training, sales and marketing training and other relevant programmes. This will ensure that the businesses receive the necessary training to become recognised in supplying the highest levels of customer service.
- **Employability opportunities**
Additionally, the programme will examine the potential for the delivery of localised hospitality recruitment programmes. This area of work will be delivered in liaison with the Council's Employability and Skills team. Partners will engage with local schools to raise awareness of the career opportunities provided by the tourism industry.
- **Marketing**
This element of work will consider how the narrative of Belfast's story could redefine the city in its marketing and brand positioning efforts in partnership with Visit Belfast and Tourism NI from the Visitor servicing perspective.

- 3.11 The programme will be expected to deliver on a series of agreed outcomes and targets. These will align to Belfast Agenda targets and will include:
- Increase in jobs
 - Improvement in skills
 - Additional visitor spend
 - Increase in overnight stays.
- 3.12 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. Lessons learned from previous Cities of Culture have shown the importance of developing a sustainable investment programme to underpin the viability of the ECoC designation – not only for the year but also in the run-up and after the event. They also point to the potentially significant return on investment and there are numerous examples of how local communities have benefitted from investment both in terms of jobs created but also in terms of civic pride and engagement. By this early investment in local tourism support, there is an opportunity to secure buy-in and build capacity as part of the development phase of the bid.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.13 Activities identified will be resourced from the agreed Departmental budget allocations for the current financial year. These have already been approved by the Committee as part of the estimates process.
- 3.14 The total budget available for this programme is £130,000 of which £80,000 will be allocated specifically towards the activities in east and west Belfast. The remaining budget will support wider interventions that Belfast City Council and Tourism NI will deliver to support local tourism across all of the City.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.15 The Tourism Strategy was screened out and any major projects will be taken forward in consultation with the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer."

During discussion, the Director added that he, along with the Directors of City and Neighbourhood Services and of Property and Projects, had met earlier that day with the National Trust to discuss areas where the Council and the Trust could work together, such as with Divis and the Black Mountain.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Routes Europe - Post Event Review

The Committee noted a report which outlined the success of the Routes Europe Conference which had been held in the Belfast Waterfront between 22nd and 25th April, 2017. The information provided was from Invest NI's first Post Project Review.

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 12th October 2016, it had agreed to commit £100,000 to support the costs of hosting the Routes Europe conference at the Belfast Waterfront. He advised the Committee that Routes Europe had indicated a number of benefits to the host city included positive PR coverage, potential new airline routes and additional leisure and business tourism visitors.

The Committee was advised of the other key partners which had contributed to the conference, including Invest NI, Tourism NI, the two local airports, Tourism Ireland, Visit Belfast, the Department of the Economy and Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. and noted that all partners had also made in-kind contributions towards the success of the event.

The Director outlined a number of key deliverables from the conference, which included:

- 1,160 delegates, including 114 airlines, 270 airports and 36 tourism authorities;
- 140 delegate tours;
- 750 attendees at the City Hall Welcome Reception;
- 1,000 attendees at the Titanic Gala Networking Events;
- 101 pieces of press coverage; and
- eight new routes announced during the conference, from Belfast to Naples, Madeira, Almeria, Antalya, Crete, Malta, Rhodes and Paphos, which in turn had created 50 new jobs.

The Director explained that both local airports had advised officers that, as a result of the conference, doors were now much more open than they were before and that they expected additional business routes to be announced throughout the coming months.

He outlined to the Members the results from the Post-Event Delegates survey, which had shown that delegates had rated the event with the highest rating that a Routes Europe event had ever received. The Committee was advised that both the Welcome Reception and the Networking Events had been rated as market leading in the conference and exhibition industry and that the organisers had asked to use Belfast as an exemplar case study of how to deliver a successful Routes Europe Conference.

The Director also highlighted that 83% of delegates had stated that their perceptions of Belfast were more positive than before, with 52% having said that they saw opportunities for their organisation in the city.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Operational

Belfast Bikes - Progress Report

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the recent workshop held on the 21st June 2017.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree on the actions contained in the report; and**
- **Note that a further report will be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in September 2017.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 In May 2017 Members agreed to participate in a workshop which was scheduled for June 2017. This workshop was held to inform the Strategic Review of the Belfast Bikes which is currently being carried out.

3.2 As part of the Strategic Review the discussions with Members were categorised as follows:

- **To revisit the original rationale and aims and objectives for the scheme**
- **To provide an update on the scheme to date**
- **To discuss the highlights and challenges**
- **To discuss and agree the way forward**

3.3 Members were provided with an update of the scheme to date and the benefits achieved thus far. These included:

- **Steadily increasing membership both Annual and Casual**
- **Increased number of cyclists**
- **Increased support of tourism events**
- **Improved activity levels**
- **Increased level of investment in cycling (leveraged funding)**
- **Improved connectivity in the City Centre**

- Additional choice of mode of transport
- Affordability for short distance trips
- Increased number of tourists cycling
- Improved city green credentials
- Improved image of Belfast

3.4 Members were also provided with information regarding the scheme coverage and current usage patterns.

3.5 Key Issues Identified

The key issues identified by Members were in relation to the following areas:

- Cost of scheme
- Pricing policy
- Coverage and potential expansion
- Vandalism and theft

Cost of the Scheme

3.6 Whilst Members acknowledged that the key outcomes of the implementation of a Bike Scheme in Belfast were not predicated on cost and that the other Benefits in relation to Health and Wellbeing were still relevant, there are concerns that the investment by the Council is substantially higher than the predicted level.

Pricing Policy

3.7 Members questioned the pricing policy and a discussion was had in relation to examining the current pricing structure and membership options. Members requested that options were brought back to Committee in respect of pricing, benchmarking with other schemes and options for alternative memberships such as 'Pay as You Go'.

Promotion

3.8 Members acknowledged that the marketing and promotion of Belfast Bikes has been excellent and requested that further efforts were to be examined in the bid to increase membership. It was agreed that this would be looked at and Committee would be provided with options for moving forward.

Coverage and Expansion of the Scheme

- 3.9 A detailed discussion took place in respect of the coverage of the scheme and future plans for expansion. It was recognised that some stations experienced low usage and Members asked about the possibility of moving said stations to other key areas. It was discussed how the current system is flexible and that stations could be moved, however there would be a cost to this. It was agreed that costs and implications of moving stations would be examined and brought back to committee, this would include the identification of stations with low usage and suggested locations for relocation.

Vandalism and Theft

- 3.10 Members asked what current actions were being taken to curb vandalism and theft and whether the PSNI had made any arrests and the outcomes of this. It was explained that NSL/Council and the PSNI have been working closely together and this has resulted in the development of a Witness Statement template to assist the PSNI in apprehending individuals for vandalism and theft. There have been several referrals to the PPS and Community Resolution Orders have been issued. Other measures are ongoing for example Nextbike have put a development group in place that will further develop and improve the system aiming to make it more secure. The Ipedal pilot project is now live and information will be gathered over the coming months. Members requested that other measures were examined and costed. Again it was agreed that this area would be examined and reported back to Committee. This would include CCTV cameras for problematic stations, engaging with Community groups with Member support, other additional security measures e.g. extra hours for NSL staff to carry out checks and linkages with Community Safety.
- 3.11 In summary the following actions will be taken and a report taken back to Committee in September 2017 for consideration:

Action	Output
Review of business case costs and income.	Provide Members with realistic view of the proposed ongoing investment required by the Council
Review the pricing policy and membership options.	Provide Members with options and risks in relation to pricing. Provide Members with suggestions in relation to

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 9th August, 2017**

	membership such as 'Pay as You Go'.
Examine coverage and usage of bikes across the City.	Provide Members with options in respect of relocation of existing stations and costs/implications of moving stations.
Examine vandalism and theft interventions.	Provide Members with information regarding intervention actions and the costs/implications of this.
Examine further promotional opportunities.	Provide Members with information regarding future promotion ideas.

- 3.12 Members are asked to note the report and agree to this work being progressed with a further report to come back to Committee with options and costs for the suggested improvements and activities.**
- 3.13 Whilst not directly linked to the Bike Scheme, Members should be aware that Sustrans have offered funding of £1,547.40 (60% of purchase cost) towards the purchase of a Bicycle Repair Station at the new C.S Lewis Square in east Belfast. The first of its kind in Northern Ireland - this free and publically accessible bike repair facility will comprise of a bicycle pump unit and a unit containing a range of eight retractable tools – to provide cyclists with a free facility to make adjustments and repairs on the spot. The remaining costs associated with equipment purchase, installation and maintenance will be taken forward as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project along which the new square was constructed last year.**
- 3.14 The proposal is part of a wider EU funded CHIPS project being take forward by Sustrans to promote cycling on East Belfast's Comber Greenway and includes cycle storage at Belfast Rapid Transport stops within the local area and a further Bike Repair Stations at Billy Neil Soccer Centre in Dundonald.**
- 3.15 This proposal will be taken forward for agreement via CCG change control process i.e. Connswater Community Greenway budget will cover costs of installation. The management and maintenance implications/costs will be dealt with in respect of the Parks Service and C&N budgetary process.**

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs of the individual elements will be identified as part of the ongoing work on the strategic review. Members will be advised of the financial implications as well as the impact on the current programme budget.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Atlantic Youth Trust

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Update Members on plans by the Atlantic Youth Trust to build a sail training vessel to facilitate youth development, mentoring and training on an all-island basis
- Seek Member support to encourage the Northern Ireland Executive to progress the release of the funding to allow the project to move forward.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the work of the Atlantic Youth Trust (AYT) and the link to some of the Council activity to support major maritime-based events as well as supporting youth engagement and skills development through a Council funded Sail Training Programme.
- Agree to write a letter to Northern Ireland Executive to encourage the release of the funding.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

The Atlantic Youth Trust is a youth development and cultural integration charity that brings together young people from

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to engage in sail-based training and development activity.

- 3.2 One of the organisation's key ambitions has been to develop its own Tall Ship that will act as a focal point for the future engagement and training activity. AYT has been engaging in an extensive programme of political outreach and lobbying to secure the necessary funding for the construction of the vessel. At this point in time, they have been able to secure resources from the Republic of Ireland government. These are to be matched by resources from the Northern Ireland Executive.
- 3.3 The Fresh Start Agreement included a commitment to work with the Irish government to 'seek agreement on a funding plan for the Atlantic Youth Trust initiative'. This funding was to focus on the build and fit-out of the training vessel to facilitate youth development, mentoring, and training on an all-island basis.
- 3.4 As part of their fundraising engagement, AYT were able to secure a £20,000 legacy donation from the 2015 Belfast Tall Ships Races – an initiative lead by BCC.
- 3.5 If the project does progress, there are opportunities to link this to a range of additional activities in which the Council is engaged. These include the potential return of the Tall Ships event to Belfast between 2021 and 2023 (subject to funding), youth engagement and outreach activity through our Community Services Team and skills development support. There is also the opportunity to use the vessel to support the city's bid for European Capital of Culture as it would sail to a number of ports across Europe.
- 3.6 Atlantic Youth Trust has asked for Council support to encourage the Northern Ireland Executive to engage to agree the funding plan and necessary match-funding resources to go alongside the resources provided by the Irish government. It is proposed that a letter of support is issued to the Northern Ireland Executive outlining the Council support for this activity and encouraging NI Executive engagement to progress the funding discussions.
- 3.7 Equality and Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations implications at this point.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

No specific financial requests at this point.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 23rd August, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and L. Patterson; and
Councillors Boyle, Dorrian, Dudgeon,
Graham, Johnston, Magee,
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

Also attended: Alderman Rodgers.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation

Transport NI – Spring Report 2017

The Committee was advised that Mr. K. Monaghan, Eastern Divisional Manager Transport NI, Mr. T. McClay, Belfast North Section Engineer, Mr. G. Doherty, Belfast South Section Engineer, and Mr. C. de Burca, Director for Transport Projects and Business Services in the Department for Infrastructure, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Monaghan advised the Committee that there were significant pressures on both capital and resource funding for the year 2017/18. He explained that Transport NI would continue to develop resurfacing and traffic management schemes to enhance safety, improve traffic flow and provide measures for pedestrians and cyclists. The Members were also advised that the Department would also continue to bid in monitoring rounds for further capital funding for structural maintenance to maintain the integrity of the road network.

He provided the Committee with updates on the main strategic transportation schemes for the city. Regarding the York Street Interchange, he advised the Members that the tender process to appoint a contractor to bring the scheme to construction-ready stage had been completed but that the tender award could not occur due to a legal

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 23rd August, 2017**

challenge. He advised the Committee that the legal challenge was ongoing but that he was hopeful that a resolution would be found in the coming months.

He provided the Members with an update on the proposed extension of bus lanes along the M1 and M2, between Ballyskeagh and Black's Road, and between Greencastle and Duncrue Street. He explained to the Committee that a procurement process had been completed in January 2017, with tendered costs significantly higher than expected, and so the contract had not been awarded. He explained that a review of the procurement strategy and any alternative delivery of the scheme was ongoing, to determine if the scheme could be procured in a more cost effective way, or with reduced requirements.

Mr. Monaghan advised the Committee that the Eastern Division had been developing proposals for road improvements along the south section of the City Centre ring. The Members were informed that the Shaftesbury Link scheme would be much reduced in scale from that which featured in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP), with a focus on the needs of public transport, pedestrians and cyclist, as well as general traffic, and would also take cognisance of potential redevelopment opportunities between Sandy Row and Cromac Street.

Mr. de Burca provided the Members with an overview of the works which had been completed across the city in preparation for the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He also outlined to the Committee a number of ongoing works, which involved regenerating 22km of road through the east, west and city centre in total. He advised the Committee that the works included updating pavements, traffic signals and lighting along the route, with the addition of accident remedial measures in certain areas. The Members noted that 105 halts would be installed along the route, each with off-board ticketing and validation machines. Mr. de Burca advised the Committee that a major launch of the new vehicles which would be used for BRT would be held in Belgium, where the buses were being made, on 19th October and that the Lord Mayor had been invited to attend.

In response to a Member's question regarding the new BRT ticketing system, the Director of Property and Projects advised the Members that Translink would be attending a future meeting of the Corporate Management Team and that an invitation could be extended to Translink, to attend a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to provide the Members with an overview of the new ticketing system.

In response to a Member's question as to whether the BRT would be expanded to include a North/South line, Mr. de Burca confirmed that the Department would certainly like to see this happen, but that it would be dependent on funding.

During discussion, Mr. Monaghan explained to the Members that there was a very limited budget for routine maintenance and, as a result, less grass cutting, weed spraying and gullyclearings had taken place than in some previous years. He stated, however, that if a Member had any safety concerns that they should contact Transport NI to request that the locations be examined.

The Members drew the attention of the officers from Transport NI to a number of other matters, a number of which are set out hereunder:

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 23rd August, 2017**

- the presence of large, overhanging bushes along the Westlink which looked precarious;
- to consider reducing the limits of the loading bays in Chichester Street, which were currently 24 hour;
- to consider the installation of a yellow box at the junction of Bridgend/Short Strand/ Newtownards Road to facilitate better traffic flow;
- to consider, in conjunction with the planned BRT works, increasing the size of the yellow box at the junction of Great Victoria Street and the Grosvenor Road;
- to consider whether improved infrastructure works were required, in light of the high number of cruise ships which were now arriving into the city;
- to consider how suppliers could gain vehicular access to the back entrances of those shops which backed onto Bains Place/ Brunswick Street/Amelia Street at Blackstaff Square; and
- to consider the removal of a tree on Ballarat Street, off the Ravenhill Road, which is causing significant drainage issues.

During discussion, Mr. Monaghan advised that, where relevant, action would be taken on these issues by TransportNI if it was deemed necessary after inspection.

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

On-Street Car Parking Charges

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting of 1st February 2017, the Council had passed the following Notice of Motion:

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

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

The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to ensure that there is improved consultation with all stakeholders, including the Council, regarding the transportation issues within the City, including for those who use cars and public transport and those who cycle and walk.”

The Members were reminded that the Committee, at its meeting of 12th April, had noted a response from the former Minister for Infrastructure, Chris Hazzard MLA, which stated that he would be unable to attend a meeting, due to the upcoming election, but that his Departmental representatives would be in a position to attend such a meeting. The Committee had agreed, at that meeting, that a representative from the Department be invited to a future meeting to discuss the issue of on-street car parking charges.

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 23rd August, 2017**

Mr. de Burca outlined to the Committee that the increase in on-street car parking charges, from £1.20 to £1.40 per hour, had been operational since February 2017, and that it had been the first increase since 2011. He explained that there were significant pressures on finances within the Department and that the income from on-street car parking charges had gone towards road, traffic and light maintenance across the network.

The Committee noted the information provided.

Transport Update (including Belfast Rapid Transit)

The Committee noted that TransportNI was taking forward legislation to introduce and revoke waiting restrictions, as part of the Belfast Rapid Transit project, at the following locations:

- Andersonstown Road from Whiterock Road to Finaghy Road North;
- Upper Newtownards Road from Albertbridge Road to Sandown Road;
- Upper Newtownards Road from Sandown Road to Knock Road;
- Falls Road and Divis Street from Grosvenor Road to Millfield;
- Stewartstown Road from Michael Ferguson Roundabout to McKinsty Road;
- Stewartstown Road from Finaghy Road North to Michael Ferguson Roundabout; and
- Albertbridge Road from Castlereagh Street to the Newtownards Road.

The Committee also:

- noted that legislation was being taken forward to prohibit all U-turn movements at the Kennedy Way and B102 Andersonstown Road junction to facilitate Belfast Rapid Transit; and
- agreed that it had no objections to the abandonment of a bus turning circle on the Lisburn Road, opposite the Park Royal housing development.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 16th August, 2017

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
Alderman L. Patterson; and
Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Campbell,
Carson, Clarke, Collins, Craig, Dudgeon,
Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson,
McReynolds and Milne.
- Also attended: Alderman McGimpsey.
- In attendance: Mr. P. Cunningham, Assistant 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 the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and Councillors Bell and McConville.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd July, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority

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

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

The Committee considered the following report:

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To consider applications for the renewal of 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:-

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

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

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

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
Irish National Foresters Club 14-18 Albert Street, Belfast, BT12 4HB	Mr. Gerry Lappin	Renewal	June, 2011 Padlocked emergency exit at rear of premises	22nd November, 2011 £400 and £66 Court costs
Phoenix Bar 179-181 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2EW	Mr. Joe Crangle	Renewal	November, 2015 Entertainment without an Entertainments Licence	24th May, 2016 Conditional Discharge and £69 Court costs

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

Dukes at Queens 65-67 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL	Mr. Eamon Diamond Dukes Belfast LLP	Renewal	August 2015 The Chester Park Inn Entertainment without an Entertainments Licence in an outdoor area	22nd March, 2016 Conditional Discharge 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.**

Application History

Irish National Foresters Club

- 3.4 This is the fifth and final time that an application for the premises will be considered since the applicant was convicted on 22nd November, 2011. The last renewal application was brought before the Committee on 15th June, 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the licence.**
- 3.5 Since the previous renewal, the premises have been subject to one during performance inspection, as well as the renewal inspection, to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and we have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.**

Phoenix Bar

- 3.6 This is the second time that an application for the premises has been considered since the applicant was convicted on 24th May, 2016. The last renewal application was brought before the Committee on 15th June 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the licence.**
- 3.7 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 these or any other safety issues and we have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.**

Dukes at Queens

- 3.8 This application is being placed before the Committee, because the applicant was convicted on 22nd March 2016 of offences under the Order at Belfast Magistrates Court**

regarding one of their other premises, namely, the Chester Park Inn.

- 3.9 This is the second time that an application from Mr. Diamond has been brought before the Committee. It previously considered an application for the Chester Park Inn on 21st September 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the licence.
- 3.10 The applicant is also the licensee for The Washington Bar, 21 Howard Street. The application to renew that licence will be brought before the Committee in due course for consideration.
- 3.11 Since the previous renewal, the premises have been subject to three further during performance inspections, as well as the recent renewal inspection, to ensure that there has been no recurrence of the breach or any other safety issues. For one of the inspections, no entertainment was taking place whilst the other inspections showed that safety and management procedures are being implemented effectively.

Representations

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

PSNI

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

NIFRS

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

Applicants

- 3.15 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.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of the Irish National Foresters Club, 14-18 Albert Street, the Phoenix Bar, 179-181 Antrim Road and Dukes at Queens, 65-67 University Street.

**Application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit –
Odyssey Bowl, Unit 2, Odyssey Pavilion, Queen’s Quay**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the grant of an Amusement Permit for Odyssey Bowl, under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order)

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Odyssey Bowl Unit 2, Odyssey Pavilion Queens Quay Belfast BT3 9QQ	WK/2017/00379	Mr. Brian McCormack Matagorda3 Limited 45 Charles Street London W1J 5EH

- 1.2 The Director of Matagorda3 Limited is Mr. Brian McCormack.
- 1.3 A copy of the application form and a location map has been circulated to the Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The current policy, dictated by the governing Order, is that the Committee, in considering the application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit, shall have regard to:
- a) The fitness of the applicant to hold a Permit having regard to his character, reputation and financial standing,
 - b) The fitness of any other person by whom the business is to be carried on under the Permit would be managed, or for whose benefit that business would be carried on,

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

- c) **Representation, if any, from the sub-divisional commander of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in whose sub-division the premises are situated, and**
 - d) **Representation, if any, as a result of the public notices of advertisement.**
- 2.2 You are then required to make a decision based on the following options set out under the Order.**
- 2.3 You must refuse the application unless satisfied that:**
 - a) **The applicant is a fit person to hold an Amusement Permit; and**
 - b) **The applicant will not allow the business proposed to be carried on under the Amusement Permit to be managed by, or carried on for the benefit of, a person other than the applicant who would himself be refused the grant of an Amusement Permit.**
- 2.4 Thereafter:-**
 - 1. **You may refuse the application after hearing any representations from third parties, or**
 - 2. **You may grant the application, subject to the mandatory condition that the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character, and**
- 2.5 In the case of premises that have machines with the maximum cash prize of £25.00, where admission is restricted to persons aged 18 or over, that –**
 - **no persons under 18 are admitted to the premises; and**
 - **at any entrance to, and inside any such premises there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the premises is prohibited to persons aged under 18, and in addition**
 - 3. **You may also grant the application subject to discretionary conditions outlined in the Order relating to the illumination of the premises, advertising of, and window displays on the premises and the display of information notices.**

- 2.6 Should you be of a mind to refuse the application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit or grant the Permit subject to any discretionary conditions, you are required to advise the applicant of your intention to do so. In this case, you must afford the applicant the opportunity to make representations at a specified Licensing Committee meeting on the matter before making a final determination on the application.
- 2.7 If, subsequent to hearing the applicant, you refuse the application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit or decide to grant the application subject to discretionary conditions the applicant may appeal that decision to the County Court.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Members are reminded that the Licensing Committee is responsible and has full delegated authority for determining all applications relating to the grant and provisional grant of Amusement Permits.
- 3.2 Members may be aware that an arcade has operated at this premise since 2000. A permit authorising machines which pay out a maximum all cash prize of £25.00 was first granted at the Health and Environmental Services Committee on 5th December, 2005.
- 3.3 As there is no mechanism within the Order to enable the transfer of a permit from one company to another, as is happening in this case, an application must, therefore, be made for the Grant of an Amusement Permit.

Applicant

- 3.4 The applicant intends to operate the premises in the same manner as it has operated previously, with the same number of machines and under the same hours.
- 3.5 The permit is for a total of 21 gaming machines, of which 13 are to pay out a maximum all cash prize of £25.00. In the case of premises which have machines with a maximum cash prize of £25.00 admission is restricted to persons aged 18 or over.
- 3.6 The proposed opening hours of the premises, as specified on the application, are:

Monday to Friday: 12.00 pm to 11.00 pm
Saturday: 10.00 am to midnight
Sunday: 10.00 am to 11.00 pm

- 3.7 The premises are located in the Odyssey Pavilion, which consists of retail units, a multi-screen cinema, bars and restaurants.
- 3.8 A representative from Matagorda3 Limited will be available to discuss any matters relating to the grant of the permit at your meeting.

Health, Safety, Welfare and Technical requirements

- 3.6 The applicant has confirmed that no changes are being made to the arcade that would require a Building Regulations application.

PSNI

- 3.7 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that it has no objections to the application. A copy of its correspondence has been forwarded to the Committee.

NIFRS

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

Planning Matters

- 3.9 As the premises have been open since the year 2000 they would have established use rights to operate as an Amusement Arcade under Planning Legislation. Planning permission was granted on 3rd April, 2003.
- 3.10 In an important Court of Appeal decision in June 1999, it was confirmed that the Council, in determining applications for Amusement Permits, may take into account planning considerations but should be slow to differ from the views of the Planning Authority.
- 3.11 The Court also confirmed that the Council can take into account matters such as location, structure, character and impact on neighbours and the surrounding area.
- 3.12 A copy of the planning permission has been made available to the Committee.

Environmental Considerations

- 3.13 Members may wish to consider whether the continued use of the premises for an amusement arcade will impact positively, negatively or neutrally on the existing built environment of the area which is predominately retail and commercial.

Amusement Permit Policy

- 3.14 An Amusement Permit Policy was ratified at Council on 1st May 2013 and outlines those matters which may be taken into account in determining any application and indicates that each application must be assessed on its own merits.
- 3.15 The key Policy objectives are to:-
1. Promote the retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast;
 2. Enhance the tourism and cultural appeal of Belfast by protecting its image and built heritage;
 3. Support and safeguard residential communities in Belfast;
 4. Protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling; and
 5. Respect the need to prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder.
- 3.16 The Policy consists of two components which are considered below:
- 1. Legal requirements under the 1985 Order**
- 3.17 Members must have regard to the legal requirements under the 1985 Order relating to:
- (a) The character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant:
- 3.18 References and additional supporting information for those associated with the application have been circulated to the Committee.
- (b) The nature of the premises and activity proposed:
- 3.19 To ensure that the nature of the premises proposed is suitable for this location Members may consider how the premises are illuminated, the form of advertising and window display, and how notices are displayed on the premises. Whilst the appearance of amusement arcades is considered a Planning matter, Members may still wish to be satisfied that the façade integrates with adjacent frontages.
- (c) Opinions of the Police:
- 3.20 The Police comments have been sought and its response is set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

(d) Submissions from the general public:

- 3.21 No objections have been received as a result of the public notices placed in the three local newspapers.

2. Assessment criteria for suitability of a location

- 3.22 There are five criteria set out in the Policy which should typically be considered when assessing the suitability of a location for an amusement arcade. These are detailed below as they relate to this application.

(a) Retail vibrancy and viability of Belfast:

- 3.23 The application site at Unit 2, Queens Quay is located internally within the ground floor of the Odyssey SSE Arena sports and entertainment complex. This complex is located outside of the Retail Core of Belfast City Centre, but within the limit of the City Centre as defined in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP). It does not break up any continuous shopping frontage.

Complies with this criterion.

(b) Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location:

- 3.24 This is the only amusement arcade within the Odyssey SSE Arena complex. The nearest amusement arcades to it are located approximately a mile away across the River Lagan in the larger part of the City Centre. The closest amusement arcade to it in East Belfast is located several miles away at 32-46 Castlereagh Road.

Complies with this criterion.

(c) Impact on the image and profile of Belfast:

- 3.25 The application premises are not listed as part of the built heritage of Belfast. Neither are they located at one of the 11 Gateway locations at the edge of Belfast City Centre which, as noted in BMAP, presents the visitor with an initial impression that can influence their overall perception of the City.
- 3.26 Nonetheless, given the far-reaching appeal of the Odyssey SSE Arena, it could be argued that the complex as a whole, is a tourism asset within Belfast. However, when considering this matter, appreciable weight needs to be attached to the fact that this amusement arcade has been operating from this

complex for well over a decade and no one has chosen to object to this permit application for a change of ownership.

Complies with this criterion.

(d) Proximity to residential use:

(i) - predominantly residential in character

- 3.27 This is a purpose-built, enclosed mixed use location within the City Centre. The nearest residential uses to it are the apartments in the adjacent Titanic Quarter. The area is not therefore predominantly residential in character.

(ii) – non-residential property that is immediately adjacent to residential property

- 3.28 There are no residential uses within the Odyssey SSE Arena complex that are adjacent to the unit.

Complies with this criterion.

(e) Proximity to schools, youth centres, and residential institutions for vulnerable people:

- 3.29 There are no schools, youth centres, or residential institutions for vulnerable people within 200m of the application premises.

Complies with this criterion.

- 3.30 A copy of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy has been circulated to Members.

Conclusion

- 3.31 Based on the above findings, the application satisfies the five main criteria used by the Council when assessing the suitability of a location for an amusement permit.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.32 Administration of Amusement Permit applications is included in current budgetary estimates.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.33 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report."

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

After discussion, the Committee agreed to grant to Matagorda3 Limited an Amusement Permit for the Odyssey Bowl, Unit 2, Odyssey Pavilion, with the following conditions to be attached:

- (i) the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character;
- (ii) no persons under the age of 18 are admitted to the premises; and
- (iii) at any entrance to, and inside the premises, there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access is prohibited to persons under the age of 18.

Applications for the Renewal of Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences - Hudson Bar, 10-14 Gresham Street

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider applications for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence and the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Hudson Bar, based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide indoor music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind and outdoor musical entertainment.**

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
The Hudson Bar 10-14 Gresham Street Belfast BT1 1JN	WK/201700107 WK/201700108	Mr Peter Lavery MMJP Limited 8 Station Road Holywood, BT18 0BP

- 1.2 Members are reminded that two objections were received regarding the applications and, after consideration at your meeting on 17th August 2016, you agreed to renew both Entertainments Licences for a trial period of six months.**

- 1.3 The applications would have been presented for your consideration sooner but officers have endeavoured to mediate with all parties regarding the applications and concerns raised. Officers have also been conscious of the requirements of the Entertainments Licence which requires liaison meetings to be held, as and when required, with the licensee and representative groups drawn from local residents, and chaired by Council Officers, which was agreed by the Committee at the meeting on 17th August.**

- 1.4 A copy of the minutes of that meeting and of the location map has been forwarded to the Committee.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented and representations received in respect of the applications you are required to make a decision to:

- 1. agree to hear the applicant's agent who has not complied with the Committee's Operating Protocol in relation to hearing deputations;**
- 2. approve the applications for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences, or**
- 3. approve the applications for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences with special conditions, or**
- 4. refuse the applications for the renewal of the Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences.**

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

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The areas currently licensed to provide indoor entertainment are the:

- Ground Floor, with a maximum capacity of 95 persons.**
- First Floor, with a maximum capacity of 95 persons.**
- Second Floor, with a maximum capacity of 105 persons.**
- Heel Bar, with a maximum capacity of 30 persons.**

3.2 The area currently licensed to provide outdoor entertainment is the:

- Hudson Yard, with a maximum capacity of 220 persons.**

- 3.3 Following your meeting on 17th August 2016, the special conditions on the Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences were amended, as follows:

Indoor

1. The licensee to attend meetings, as and when required, with the PSNI and representative groups drawn from local residents, chaired by the Council, to discuss issues relating to Entertainments Licensing;
2. The external roller shutter on the ground floor (mid front bar) should be secured in the open position when entertainments is taking place;
3. Internal emergency exit doors at Gresham Street must not be open for any reason other than an emergency;
4. Doors on escape routes to be free from fastenings when premises are occupied; and
5. This Entertainments Licence is to be managed in conjunction with the Outdoor Entertainments Licence.

Outdoor

1. The licensee to attend meetings, as and when required, with the PSNI and representative groups drawn from local residents, chaired by the Council, to discuss issues relating to Entertainments Licensing;
2. The premises to be managed in accordance with the requirements set out within AB Consulting Services report dated 25th March 2014;
3. During entertainment, exit to Gresham Street to be manned at all times when roller shutter is in the closed position;
4. At all times, a key to roller shutter is to be retained by personnel manning the Gresham Street exit;
5. The music noise level in the outdoor area must not exceed 95 dBA Leq up to 23.00;
6. The music noise level in the outdoor area must not exceed 85 dBA Leq after 23.00;
7. No live band performances are permitted in the outdoor area after 23.00; and
8. This Entertainments Licence is to be managed in conjunction with the Indoor Entertainments Licence.

- 3.4 The days and hours during which the premises are currently licensed to provide entertainment, under both licences are:

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

- **Monday to Saturday: 11.30 am to 3.00 am the following morning**
- **Sunday: 12.30 pm to 3.00 am.**

3.5 The premises operates as a public house with entertainment currently provided in the form of DJ's and live band performances.

Representations

3.6 Notice of the applications has been advertised and no written representations have been lodged.

Further Liaison

3.7 Following your meeting on 17th August 2016, officers have further engaged with the objectors and the applicant to ensure that the agreements and conditions imposed were being implemented effectively.

3.8 Further complaints have been received from one of the objectors regarding alleged loud entertainment music emanating from the premises. These were received and responded to by the Council's Night Time Noise Team. Whilst the Noise Team witnessed some live music when in the street, they considered that the noise levels were not unreasonable and, therefore, warranted no further action.

3.9 On receipt of the complaints, officers of the Service further followed up each of these complaints with the applicant and the objector and endeavoured to convene meetings with the relevant parties involved.

3.10 The objector has regularly been advised to contact the Night Time Noise Team when they are being disturbed, so that readings can be taken to substantiate any allegation. However, when lodging the complaint, the objector has requested no further contact and, therefore, has not provided access for verifiable readings to be taken.

Liaison Meeting

3.11 A liaison meeting took place at Council offices on 14th April 2017 between an officer of the Service, representatives of the applicant and the objector and Alderman Chris McGimpsey.

3.12 The meeting was held in accordance with the requirements of the Entertainments Licence, which requires liaison meetings to be held, as and when required, with the licensee and representative groups drawn from local residents, and chaired by Council officers. The inclusion of this condition was agreed

by the Committee at the meeting on 17th August 2016 and informed the Committee's decision to renew the licence, albeit for only 6 months.

- 3.13 At the meeting on 14th April, the objector acknowledged the difference and changes made regarding noise disturbance from the premises. It was also confirmed that the Service had received one complaint at that time. However, the objector advised of further occurrences which had not been referred to the Service.
- 3.14 The applicant's representatives, outlined the measures they had put in place and that they continued to encourage taxis to collect patrons from Royal Avenue, rather than Gresham Street, and that patrons were also encouraged to leave the premises via the rear yard area, onto Royal Avenue, rather than Gresham Street, which was previously taking place.
- 3.15 Details of the technical matters were also discussed, namely, their fire safety procedures and measures to manage noise from the premises.

Complaint

- 3.16 However, during the meeting, discussions broke down following a dispute between the applicant's licensing consultant and the objector. As a result, a formal complaint has been made by Alderman McGimpsey, via email, regarding the actions and behaviour of the consultant towards the objector and the Council officer. Alderman McGimpsey considers that the applicant's consultant was disrespectful and counter-productive. A copy of his complaint has been circulated to the Committee.
- 3.17 On receipt of Alderman McGimpsey's complaint, we informed the applicant and sent him a copy of the Alderman's email and requested him to form a response. We also sent the applicant a copy of the officer's record of the meeting. A formal letter was subsequently sent outlining our concerns of the allegations, the measures we wanted to introduce as a result and that we were duty bound to bring these issues to the attention of the Committee. A copy of our correspondence to the applicant has been forwarded to the Committee.
- 3.18 In line with the Committee Protocol, we also sent the applicant and the objector Representation Forms and requested that these be provided to be presented to you for consideration. These were requested at the liaison meeting on 14th April 2017 to ensure that there was appropriate time to share the information between all parties and to allow officers to clarify any points raised if necessary.

Objector's Representation

3.19 The objector has completed and submitted a Representation Form, a copy of which has been forwarded to Members.

3.20 A general summary of their representation is listed below and is similar to the concerns they raised last year, namely:

- their main concern is the Outdoor Entertainments Licence. They have no objections to the indoor entertainments and is trying to find a solution that will work for everyone;
- each and every new Bar Manager promises to deal with the outside entertainment but twelve years on it is still the biggest issue;
- they have requested that the Outdoor Entertainments Licence be restricted for entertainment to cease at 11.00 pm;
- they have tried to resolve the noise issues by speaking directly to the owner/director and through the meetings arranged by Belfast City Council. They had hoped that, as a result of the meetings, the licensee would be honourable, but that has not been the case;
- reference was made regarding being assaulted by a drunken patron on 8th September 2012;
- being woken by people leaving the premises when drinking after hours;
- taxis coming and going around 5.00 am; and
- witnessed the premises operating out of hours to 5.00 am on Saturday night/Sunday morning of 8th-9th April.

3.21 The objector also acknowledges that things have been much better since the changes were made and the main exiting arrangements for patrons to leave the premises via the rear yard area, onto Royal Avenue rather than Gresham Street. However, they also note that they are still getting small groups hanging around outside on Gresham Street.

3.22 The objector has also included with their Representation Form a record of complaints which they have observed, some of which we hadn't been informed of prior to their submission.

3.23 The objectors and/or their representatives will be available to discuss any matters relating to their objection should they arise during your meeting.

Applicant's Representation

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

- 3.24** In accordance with the Licensing Committee Protocol, the applicant was asked to complete an Applicant's Representation Form. This was further requested in our correspondence to the applicant, following Alderman McGimpsey's complaint, and another copy of the respective form was enclosed.
- 3.25** At the time of that correspondence, the objector had already provided a copy of their Representation Form, in line with the initial deadline. However, we have not received a Representation Form from the applicant and they have recently confirmed that they do not intend to do so and consider that it would not be proper nor prudent to submit the form.
- 3.26** However, the applicant's licensing representative did send an email correspondence on 7th July 2017 regarding their concerns. That email has been forwarded to the Committee.
- 3.27** A summary of that correspondence is listed below:
- the applicant does not resile from his position or concerns which were aired at the liaison meeting on 14th April, 2017;
 - the consultant considers that the record of the liaison meeting is only the officer's observations and, as recorded, are at odds with the comments and notes received by the applicant and submitted by the objectors. They cannot accept that they are agreed or accepted by them, as they consider that there are several blatant omissions and errors;
 - reaffirms that the applicant is not required to attend liaison meetings and that their representatives can attend on their behalf and address any matters raised;
 - is disappointed that he, as the applicant's licensing representative, was not informed of the complaint made by Alderman McGimpsey, as he is the nominated representative of the premises;
 - requests that the email is considered as a formal representation in lieu of the Committee protocol's Applicant's Representation Form and be presented to the Service Director and Committee Chairman for their consideration as to how this matter should be dealt with and progressed; and
 - requests an adjournment of this matter to allow the applicant's agent to have a meeting with the

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

**Committee Chairman and reduced delegation of
Committee Members to address the letter from
Alderman McGimpsey.**

- 3.28** The applicant's representative has also requested to make verbal representation to the Committee and considers it to be his right to do so. However, we also made them aware that if they didn't provide us with the required Representation Form, the objector may, therefore not wish to share their representation with them, which they have requested.
- 3.29** As a result, Members will be aware that under the Committee Protocol, only those who have made written submissions and registered a request to speak in respect of an application shall be permitted to make oral representations before the Committee. The Committee can, however, depart from the Protocol in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.30** The Legal Services Section has advised that holding the meeting suggested by the applicant's agent would be a breach of the rights of the objectors and would be susceptible to challenge. The Committee is, therefore, advised not to accede to that request.
- 3.31** The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting should you choose to speak with them and request them to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.

PSNI

- 3.32** The PSNI has confirmed that it has no objection to the Entertainments Licences being renewed. A copy of its correspondence has been circulated.

Health, Safety and Welfare Issues

- 3.33** A total of seven during performance inspections have been carried out on the premises by Officers from the Service since your meeting on 17th August, 2016. The inspections revealed that the conditions of licence were being adhered to.
- 3.34** The premises have also been subject to inspections as part of the licence renewal process. As a result, all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures have been checked and are satisfactory. The inspections have also ensured noise measures stipulated are being managed effectively.
- 3.35** The premises will continue to be inspected as part of our During Performance Inspection regime and will be subject to

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

further monitoring to ensure the applicant adheres to their licence conditions.

NIFRS

- 3.36 The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has confirmed that it has no objection to the Entertainments Licences being renewed.**

Noise Issues

- 3.37 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the application and has confirmed that it has received a total of thirteen noise complaints since the meeting on 17th August 2016.**

- 3.38 Whilst the Noise Team witnessed some live music when in the street, it considers that the noise levels were not unreasonable and therefore warranted no further action.**

- 3.39 Officers have previously been denied access by the objector. However, they have nonetheless responded to the complaints and followed up accordingly.**

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

Prior to reviewing the application, the Assistant Building Control Manager highlighted the fact that the Licensing Committee Protocol permitted only those applicants or objectors who had completed an official representation form and who had registered a request to address the Committee to make oral representation whilst an application was being considered. He pointed out that, in this instance, the applicant had not complied with the Protocol, in that he had failed to submit a representation form, despite having been requested on more than one occasion to do so. That had meant that information had not been shared between the applicant and the objector, who had submitted a form, in advance of the Committee meeting. He pointed out that Mr. J. McGuigan, the applicant's representative, was in attendance and recommended that the Committee decide, before considering the application, if, in the absence of a representation form, it would permit Mr. McGuigan to make oral representation.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain clarification from Mr. McGuigan on that issue and he was welcomed by the Chairperson.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

Mr. McGuigan informed the Members that he had not been provided with a copy of the Licensing Committee Protocol by the Building Control Service or been advised of the need to submit a representation form in the required format. He referred to an email which he had submitted on 7th July to the Building Control Service, in relation to the liaison meeting which had taken place on 14th April and the operation of the premises generally and stated that, in his view, it constituted adherence to Clause 4 of the Protocol, regarding making representation to the Committee, and should entitle him to speak on the applicant's behalf. However, his attention was drawn by the Chairperson to Clause 6 of the document, which stipulated that a prepared statement should be submitted in advance of a Committee meeting and that the official representation form should be used.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in order to ensure that it was in possession of all of the facts surrounding the application before reaching a decision, that Mr. McGuigan be permitted, on this occasion, to make oral representation on the applicant's behalf.

The Assistant Building Control Manager then provided an overview of the application, following which Alderman McGimpsey, together with Ms. A. Torley, the objector, and Ms. B. Torley, her sister, were invited to address the Committee.

Alderman McGimpsey informed the Committee that the Torley family had lived in Winetavern Street for many years and that, despite being surrounded by a number of licensed premises, they had only experienced issues with the Hudson Bar. He pointed out that undertakings by successive bar managers to resolve issues around the operation of the premises had, in all likelihood, been provided only to assist with the application process at that time, given that they had not then been implemented. That, combined with the refusal by the applicant's representative to comply with the Licensing Committee Protocol and his behaviour at the liaison meeting on 14th April, demonstrated a general disregard for the objector's family. He concluded by highlighting the fact that the Hudson Bar was licensed to accommodate 325 patrons and that, if not regulated properly, it would continue to create difficulties for the Torley family.

In response to a question from a Member, Ms. A. Torley explained that the noise issues associated with the premises were most evident when the outdoor entertainment area was in use and when patrons were leaving the premises through a shutter door leading onto Gresham Street. She referred to the fact that the Committee, at its meeting on 18th August, 2016, had attached to the Outdoor Entertainments Licence a condition requiring that door to remain closed whilst entertainment was taking place and indicated that the arrangement had worked well initially. However, a number of weeks after the liaison meeting on 14th April, it had appeared, unsurprisingly, to have been set aside and the shutter door was again being used, which had generated increased noise levels from patrons and taxis in Gresham Street. She added that it was often the case that noise levels were not consistent and had usually subsided by the time that the Council's Night Time Noise Team had arrived.

In response to a further question, she confirmed that the liaison meeting on 14th April had been the only one to have had been held since the Entertainments Licences had been renewed and that the behaviour of the applicant's representative on that occasion meant that further meetings would be unlikely. That view was endorsed by Alderman McGimpsey who highlighted the fact that he had lodged with the Council a formal complaint in relation to Mr. McGuigan's conduct at that meeting and that, based

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

upon his experience to date, he would not be confident that any commitments made on behalf of the applicant at such meetings would be fulfilled.

The Chairperson thanked the deputation for their contribution and invited Mr. McGuigan to return to the table to make representation on the applicant's behalf.

Mr. McGuigan began by expressing concern at the way in which his conduct at the liaison meeting which had taken place on 14th April had been presented. He explained that he had attended that meeting on behalf of Mr. Lavery, the licensee, who had other commitments, and that he was under the impression that its purpose was to move matters forward, rather than to revisit previous complaints. Discussions had been mainly positive, however, as the minute of the meeting had indicated, issues had arisen in the latter stages, when the objector had referred to an incident which had occurred in 2012 in Gresham Street whilst she and her dog had been returning to her home which, in her view, the licensee had failed to acknowledge. That, he argued, was the primary motivation behind her attempts to stymie subsequent licensing applications, which was evidenced by the fact that, since the liaison meeting, twelve noise complaints had been lodged with the Council in relation to the Hudson Bar, compared to only one beforehand. He stressed that none of those complaints had been substantiated and referred to the fact that the objector had failed to provide firm evidence to support her objection and had even refused officers entry to her property to monitor noise levels. The licensee, on the other hand, had no difficulty with noise measurements being taken within his premises and had co-operated fully with Council officers throughout the course of this and previous applications. He concluded by requesting the Committee to renew both the Indoor and the Outdoor Entertainments Licences.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. McGuigan stated that it was his understanding that responsibility for organising the liaison meetings rested with the Building Control Service and that he would be willing to attend future meetings on the licensee's behalf, if required. In terms of the objector's allegation that the roller door leading onto Gresham Street was being used on nights when entertainment was taking place, he confirmed that that was the only route through which litter bins could be removed from the premises and that it had been opened for only five minutes on only one occasion and was long before entertainment was due to commence.

Mr. McGuigan was thanked by the Chairperson.

The Committee agreed that there was no requirement to hear from the Police Service of Northern Ireland representative, who was in attendance, but sought further clarification from the Assistant Building Control Manager, primarily around liaison meetings, the operation of the aforementioned shutter door and the management of the premises generally.

The Assistant Building Control Officer explained that the Building Control Service would have preferred to have facilitated more than one liaison meeting but had been unable to identify dates which suited both the licensee and the objector. He reported that none of the seven during performance inspections of the Hudson Bar which had been undertaken since August, 2016 had found the shutter door leading into Gresham to be open whilst entertainment had been taking place. He added that those inspections, together with others which had been undertaken under the current application process, had confirmed that all licensing requirements were being met and he assured the

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 16th August, 2017**

Committee that, should it be minded to renew the Entertainments Licences, any future breaches would be brought to its immediate attention.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences for the Hudson Bar, 10-14 Gresham Street, for a period of twelve months, with the conditions which had been attached to the previous licences, as set out within paragraph 3.3 of the report, to be retained.

Non-Delegated Matters

Institute of Licensing National Training Conference

The Committee was reminded that the Institute of Licensing was a professional body for licensing practitioners in local government, the police, private sector, trade and the legal profession. The Institute, which operated throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, had been established to provide education and training and to disseminate knowledge in all matters relating to licensing.

The Committee was reminded further that Belfast was a Corporate Member affiliated to the Northern Ireland Region of the Institute and that Mr. James Cunningham, the Council's Regulatory Services Manager, was the chairman of the Institute of Licensing (Northern Ireland Region) and a Director and Trustee of the Institute.

The Assistant Building Control Manager reported that, this year, the Institute would be holding its National Training Conference in the Holiday Inn Hotel, Stratford-Upon-Avon from Wednesday 15th till Friday 17th November and that it would provide Elected Members and officers with an opportunity to meet with other licensing professionals and to obtain an update on changes within the licensing sector. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee authorise the attendance at the event of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Director of Planning and Place and the Building Control Manager (or their nominees) and suggested that it might wish to consider funding the travel to the conference of Mr. James Cunningham, in recognition of his role as the chairman of the Northern Ireland Region. Mr. Cunningham's residential fee would be paid for by the Institute of Licensing.

The Committee adopted the recommendation and agreed to fund the travel to the conference of Mr. James Cunningham.

Change of Date of November Meeting

The Committee agreed to move its monthly meeting on 15th November to an alternative date, to prevent it from coinciding with the Institute of Licensing National Training Conference, which the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and a number of officers had, earlier in the meeting, obtained approval to attend.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 15th August, 2017

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th June 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 July, 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 11.c) LA04/2015/1465/F Demolition of rear hall and provision of annexe at Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, in that he had met with 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 11.c) LA04/2015/1465/F Demolition of rear hall and provision of annexe at Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, Councillor Dorrian declared an interest, in so far as he had received contact from residents, however, he indicated that he had not committed himself to any particular course of action in relation to the application.

Regarding item 11.d) LA04/2015/0773/F Demolition of existing building and erection of new building to extend the facilities within the existing orthodontic clinic located at 218 Ormeau Road, Councillor Lyons, declared an interest, in so far as he had discussed the proposal with local residents. He also declared an interest in relation to items 11.i) LA04/2017/0361/F and 11.j) LA04/2016/2360/F - Subdivision of retail unit 1 into 2 retail units at Hillview Retail Park, Crumlin Road, in that he had previously had a working relationship with objectors, however, he indicated that he had not committed himself to any particular course of action in relation to the application.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

Recruitment of Operational Director of Planning and Building Control

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd June, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed that the selection panel to recruit the post of Operational Director for Planning and Building Control in the new Place and Economy Department would be constituted by the Planning Committee at its meeting in August 2017.

It was reported that the Committee should nominate and agree three elected members for this selection panel who, along with the Chief Executive and City Solicitor, would balance the panel in terms of gender and community background.

The Committee agreed that:

- the composition of the selection panel to recruit the post of Operational Director for Planning and Building Control would be three elected members, along with the Chief Executive and City Solicitor;
- the panel would comprise of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Committee (or their nominees) and a third elected member (either Cllr. Johnston or Cllr. Carson, or their nominees) with the Human Resources Section liaising with the Members to ensure the selection panel was balanced both in terms of gender and community background; and
- a targeted and timely proactive executive search approach be initiated to ensure a strong and competent applicant field for the job.

Quarter 1 – Finance Update

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the financial position of both the Planning and Licensing Committees, as at the end of the first quarter of the financial year. It was noted further that, as at 30th June, there had been a net over-spend of £141k, however, the forecast year-end departmental position was an under-spend of £61k (4.2%).

Committee Site Visit

Pursuant to its decision of 20th June, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 8th August in respect of planning application 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.

Section 29 Directions – referral to Department for Infrastructure for determination

LA04/2017/0474/F – Casement Park Stadium

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) notifying the Council of the regional significance of an application

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

which proposed re-development of Casement Park to provide a new Stadium (capacity of 34578) at lands at 88-104 Andersonstown Road and between 36-42 Morreland Park and 202-206 Stockman's Lane (full description available [here](#)). As a result of it being classified as 'Regionally Significant' under Section 26 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011, DfI would be responsible for determining the application.

Noted.

LA04/2017/1388/F – Transport Hub

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) notifying the Council of the regional significance of an application which proposed a new integrated public transport interchange at lands to the east of the Westlink (A12) (full description available [here](#)). As a result of it being classified as 'Regionally Significant' under Section 26 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011, DfI would be responsible for determining the application.

Noted.

Response to consultation requests from Department for Infrastructure

LA04/2017/0474/F – Casement Park Stadium

The Committee was advised that a consultation request had been received by the Department for Infrastructure for the proposed application for the Re-development of Casement Park to provide a new Stadium (Capacity of 34578). The development included the demolition of the existing facilities; construction of new pitch, boundary wall and stands, incorporating bar/restaurant and ancillary kitchen areas, conference, training, community and cultural heritage and education facilities, ancillary offices, player accommodation and welfare facilities, press/media and broadcast facilities, replacement floodlighting, stadium/event management suite, ground support facilities including new arrangements for vehicles and pedestrians, electronic display installations, storage, surface and undercroft car parking, hard and soft landscaping, new landscaped pedestrian access from Mooreland Park to Stockman's Lane, together with use of the stadium for up to three outdoor music concerts in any calendar year.

The Committee agreed that the response, as outlined in the report, be issued to the Department for Infrastructure's Strategic Planning Division on behalf of the Council, with emphasis of the following points:

- Further detailed cross sections through the entire site and surrounding properties as a whole was recommended;
- In addition, in terms of wider visual effect, it was recommended that further images were required to demonstrate the impact on the skyline and on key views, both near and distant; and
- Greater certainty around travel, transport and traffic should also be provided at this stage.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

LA04/2017/0878/F - power generation station site located on lands at Airport Road West Belfast Harbour Estate

The Committee was advised that a consultation request had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the proposed application for the Erection of 480MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Station comprised of turbine hall/heat recovery system generator building with 50m exhaust stack, air cooled condenser, 2 storey administration building, 2 storey workshop building, gas insulated substation, gas compressor station, gas pressure reduction station, associated water and fuel tanks and other associated infrastructure and ancillary development including provision of site access and road works to facilitate extension to pedestrian footways and delineation of a right hand turn lane. Construction of new Above Ground Installation (AGI) at Kinnegar Army Barracks and new underground pipeline along Airport Road West, Esplanade Road with option of also following Heron/Moscow Road and which would connect the Power Station Site to the existing gas transmission infrastructure at Kinnegar Barracks.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, additional information had been received from AES UK and Ireland, in response to comments from Belfast Power Limited in the case officer's report regarding Kilroot Power Station, which suggested that the forecasted reduction in capacity and eventual closure of Kilroot was inaccurate due to recent legislative changes and planned technological upgrades. She advised that these comments would be relayed to DfI.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the response, as outlined (copy available on the Council's website), be issued to the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Strategic Planning Division on behalf of the Council.

LA04/2016/0421/F- Multi-purpose facility at D3 for berthing of cruise ships

The Committee was advised that a consultation request had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the proposed application for the construction of a new multi-purpose facility at D3 for berthing of cruise ships, and for lay-by and transient storage of project cargo, break bulk and dry bulk during cruise ship off season. The development comprised of the construction of 340m long solid quay with mooring dolphins, dredging of the berthing pocket and infilling behind the new quay wall using imported clean fill materials, construction of a 25m wide piled relieving slab along the quay length, with heavy duty paving surfacing on the quay/slab hinterland, access road, security gates, access barrier and kiosk at Airport Road West, modular terminal building, shore side facilities, lighting, fencing, and landscaping. (Amended Description).

The Committee was reminded that previous notification had been received from DfI and had been reported at the Planning Committee in June, 2016. This further consultation had now been received following the receipt of further environmental information resulting in updates to the Environmental Statement and an addendum.

The Committee agreed that the response, as outlined (copy available on the Council's website), be issued to the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Strategic Planning Division on behalf of the Council.

Statutory Consultee Annual Report

The Committee was reminded that Section 229 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 (Duty to respond to consultation) placed the previous administrative consultation arrangements in the development management process for planning applications on a statutory basis. It was reported that consultee bodies that had been identified in Schedule 3 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (“the GDPO”) were statutory consultees, and therefore subject to the duty to respond to statutory consultation requests from another district council, or the Department, acting as the relevant planning authority.

It was reported that the Statutory Consultee Annual Report, as outlined in Appendix A, outlined the Council’s performance for 2016/17 and highlighted that the Department for Infrastructure had acknowledged that there had been shortcomings with the consultation process and would be establishing a task and finish working group to identify and introduce improvements, to which an officer from the Council had been nominated to attend.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the submission of the Statutory Consultee Annual Report to the Department for Infrastructure as outlined in Appendix A of the report. (Copy available [here](#)).

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 12th June and 7th August, 2017.

Departmental Performance Update

The Development Engagement Manager provided the following information on the Department’s performance up to 31st July, 2017:

Planning Applications

- 191 applications had been validated in July, 2017;
- 277 applications had been validated in June, 2017; and
- Overall numbers of applications validated this year had increased by 13% on the same period last year.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

Planning Decisions

- 131 decisions had been issued in July, 2017;
- 220 decisions had been issued in June, 2017;
- 96% approval rate;
- 95% decisions had been issued under delegated authority; and

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 971 live applications were in the system at end of July, 2017;
- 71% of applications were in the system for less than 6 months; and
- 14 legacy applications were outstanding.

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. Up to the 31st July, 2017, the average processing time to decide major applications was 60. This, however, included legacy applications and those Major applications which had been delayed whilst a Section 76 agreement had been put in place;
- The statutory target for processing local development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was an average of 15 weeks. Up to the 31st July, 2017, the average processing time to decide local applications was 16.7 weeks; and
- The statutory target was that 70% of all enforcement cases are progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. Up to the 31st July, 2017, 70% of enforcement cases had been concluded within 39 weeks.

The Committee also noted that the amount of legacy applications that had been completed and that remained in the system, would be included in the performance report next month.

Proposed Abandonments and Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at:

- Beechpark Street and Beechnut Place;
- Jamaica Road;
- Lawther Court;
- Slievegallion Drive; and
- The Village.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

The Committee also noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposed abandonment of Public Rights of Way at:

- Lisburn Road, Turning Circle.

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 for the listing of a number of buildings in Belfast.

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

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

- 22A Cadogan Park;
- 22 – 24 Windsor Park;
- 26 Windsor Park;
- 28 Windsor Park;
- 30 Windsor Park;
- 32 Windsor Park;
- 114 Marlborough Park Central; and
- 47 Derryvolgie Avenue.

The Committee also agreed to defer consideration of the listing of 30 Malone Park so that further clarification could be sought from the Historic Environment Division regarding the process that had been undertaken to list the property.

Update on Local Development Plan

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) and outline the next steps in the plan development process.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the progress on the LDP. The main issues to report include:

- The Preferred Options Paper (POP) Consultation Report and now been completed and has been published on our website.
- Note progress on a number of commissioned research studies including the Strategic Housing Needs Assessment (SHNA), Urban Capacity Study for residential and employment land, a Retail and Leisure Capacity Study, the Open Spaces Strategy and the Blue and Green Infrastructure masterplan
- Work is ongoing on the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy and members will be invited to workshops in the Autumn as policy is being composed

3.0 Main report

Background and Context

3.1 Draft POP Consultation report was presented to Committee in June. Work on this report has now been completed at was published on our website on Wednesday 26 July. The feedback from this consultation process will now feed into the development of the draft plan strategy.

3.2 It is necessary to continue to build upon this extensive evidence base as we work towards the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy – the first of the two development plan documents that will form the final LDP. In accordance with regional policy and best practice in plan preparation, a need has been identified for a further three inter-related pieces of research. These can be summarised as follows:

- Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) – Whilst the Housing Growth Options report considered the overall number of housing units required in Belfast to 2035, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) requires the completion of a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and Housing Market Analysis (HMA) to consider the right mix and balance of housing required in terms of tenures, types and sizes. Whilst much of the HMA work was undertaken to inform the Housing Growth Options Study, this will now be built upon to provide a detailed assessment of need. This

will provide robust evidence in relation to the mix of houses of different sizes required and the balance of tenures, such as open market housing, social housing, and other affordable housing types. It will also consider needs associated specialist housing types, such as homes for older people, private rented accommodation, student housing and needs associated with the Traveller community.

- **Urban Capacity Study (UCS) – The SPPS for Northern Ireland requires that an UCS be completed to “assess the potential for future housing growth within the urban footprint and the capacity for different types and densities of housing.” In addition, the SPPS requires that “LDPs should identify previously developed land within settlements for potential economic development” with the need to “offer a range and choice of sites in terms of size and location.” An UCS has been commissioned to assess in detail the development potential, suitability, availability and achievability of different forms of residential and economic development across the City. The study comprises six key components including:-**

- 1. Methodology Report**
- 2. Site Identification**
- 3. Windfall Assessment**
- 4. Site Assessment**
- 5. Assessment Review**
- 6. UCS Report**

To date a draft Methodology Report prepared and work is ongoing on data sharing. An assessment of existing densities ongoing and the initial site identification has been completed. Preparation for site assessment has also begun.

- **Retail and Leisure Capacity Study – The SPPS requires councils to “undertake an assessment of the need or capacity for retail and other main town centre uses across the plan area” when preparing LDPs. The Retail and Leisure Capacity Study will therefore provide an assessment of retail and leisure needs and capacity in the period up to 2035, reviewing the current performance of Belfast City Centre and other neighbourhood/local centres across the Council area and will provide the evidence to guide the detailed planning policies for Town Centre retail and leisure developments.**

- The remit of the consultant is to review and analyse existing floorspace, diversity of uses and extent of activity across the council area; define a network and hierarchy of centres; define the mix and proportion of uses; identify and appraise future retail and leisure development sites and undertake a review of existing policies and advise on the plan strategy. The consultant will work collaboratively with Council staff, attend workshops and present to senior management and will attend future examinations of the plan.
- The consultant met with council staff on 28th July discussing the diversity of use survey and has completed a householder's survey as of 7th August. The study is expected to be completed by the end of September 2017.
- Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan establishes principles guiding the continued protection, management and expansion of our green and blue network. It includes all green and blue spaces in and around the city and enables the consideration of the collective value of all of these spaces together. Constituent elements of green and blue infrastructure include parks, private gardens, agricultural fields, hedges, trees, woodland, green roofs, green walls, rivers and ponds regardless of its ownership, condition or size. The Open Spaces Strategy is one of the key components of the masterplan and is required by the SPPS as a constituent part of the LDP. Work has commenced on the preparation of the Green and Blue Masterplan. A draft of the study is expected to be completed by the end of September 2017. A workshop for key stakeholders of the open space strategy is scheduled for the 14 Sept with a view to completion towards the end of this year.

3.3 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implication arising from the reports.

3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality and good relations implications associated with this report. However, it should be noted that the Housing Needs Assessment work will consider the need for specialist housing types,

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

such as homes for older people and traveller accommodation, helping to provide the evidence required to ensure the LDP fulfils its obligation to such groups. The Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, which will make up the final LDP and which will be informed by this research, will also be subject to Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) processes.”

Noted.

Local Development Plan - Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th June, it had been agreed that the Council would participate in a joint working group linked to the preparation of the Local Development Plans, which would comprise of the planning authorities in the Metropolitan area and that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Committee had been nominated to serve on the working group.

It was reported that the inaugural meeting was scheduled for 4th September, 2017 and a draft agenda had been included in the report which included the following items: Membership and governance for the group; Terms of Reference; Timetables for each Local Development Plan; Information availability and sharing; Individual council priorities and potential synergies, together with key areas of discussion, such as the environment, housing, retail, transport and infrastructure.

Noted.

Additional Item – Planning Staff Rotation

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Director of Planning and Place provided the Committee with an update regarding the rotation of staff on the Strategic and Major Planning Application Team, and the Local Planning Application Team, within the Planning and Place Department.

The Committee noted the update and that contact details for the teams would be sent to the Members in due course.

Planning Applications

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

LA04/2016/2267/F - Erection of an office building (ranging in height from four to six storeys) and associated access road, re-configuration of existing car park and ancillary works at Site C Gasworks Office Park.

The Committee was reminded that the application had been on the agenda and case officer reports had been published in March and April, 2017, however, the application had not been presented at either of the Committee Meetings.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

The Committee was also reminded that, at its meeting on 13th April, before presentation of the application commenced, the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the ratification of the Gasworks Masterplan, the relationship between the proposed tower block and the impact on the surrounding housing, and consistency in the approach to major developments, had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following additional information had been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which raised the following points:

- high social housing need in the local area (104 applicants on waiting list, 84 in housing stress and 20 allocations over the previous year (September, 2016);
- the site was located within a larger social housing zoning; and
- BMAP was the primary consideration in determining planning applications unless material considerations dictated otherwise.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

She presented the application and highlighted that further consideration had been given to the application in the second addendum report, in light of additional and changes to the material circumstances.

She concluded that the public consultation exercise had been conducted in line with legislation and advised that the proposal for an office development at this location was recommended for approval.

The Chairperson advised that deputations who wished to speak on the application should deal with the technical aspects and planning considerations of the application.

The Committee received a representation from Councillor Hargey. She outlined a range of objections to the case officer's recommendation for approval. She suggested that the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) should be a material consideration as it was the most recent planning document and zoned the entire site for housing, and applications for the site should not be considered until an overall masterplan had been agreed and adopted. She also suggested that there was a high need for social housing in the area and 86 families were in housing stress, mainly needing three bedroom houses. She raised concerns regarding land which had been zoned for housing being changed for business interests, and suggested that there was a lack of respect for inner city communities and their needs.

During points of clarification, she also suggested that there had been disparity between how the Committee dealt with sites zoned for housing, especially when the sites were located in the City centre.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

The Committee also received representation from Ms. N. McFall, representing the Markets Development Association (MDA), and Ms. C. Bailey, MLA.

Ms. McFall outlined a range of objections to the proposal. She questioned the pre application community consultation report and whether regular meetings with stakeholders, which had been stated in the applicants report, had taken place. She suggested that there was a sustained housing need in the area and that as the site was zoned for housing under BMAP, it should still carry weight and was a material consideration in the decision making process. She suggested that there should have been meaningful discussion with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in regards to the development of housing on the site and there had been a lack of consistency with decisions made by the Planning Committee. She also suggested that the Committee should refuse the application to allow time for the Gas Works Masterplan to be agreed by all those affected.

Ms. Bailey, MLA explained her objections to the proposal, as follows:

- The scale, massing and design of the proposal;
- Issues with the land height and the potential for the buildings to intrude on the surrounding residential properties;
- Loss of light and dominance - The case officers report had already identified this as a problem and would create a barrier;
- Suggested the removal of existing walls instead of building higher ones;
- Issues with the access road and its potential to create an infrastructure barrier for the residents and community; and
- Suggested that the Committee should support the inner city communities' views and refuse the proposal, as without a masterplan being agreed for the other plots of the site, she believed it would be the wrong way to start the development.

During points of clarification, Ms. McFall also suggested that she was not aware of the existence of the Gasworks Residency Committee and Gasworks Security Forum which had been stated in the applicants report regarding the pre application community consultation.

At this point, the City Solicitor clarified that the adoption of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP), which had been referred to by the objectors, had been challenged by the Council in respect of a Sprucefield Development related issue. He stated that the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) was out of date, and BMAP continued to have significant weight in terms of planning considerations due to it having undergone a public inquiry, a number of internal department processes and was at an advanced stage. He explained that there had been a Joint Ministerial Statement on the matter, which indicated that the further stages that BMAP had reached in the process prior to adoption, the more weight it should be given, in terms of planning decisions. He advised that this position was still relevant, therefore, BMAP was of significant weight in the Committee's decision making process and that only one aspect of BMAP was contentious.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

The Committee also received representation from Councillor Craig who outlined a range of support for the application which included investment, job creation, together with rent and rates income for the Council. He suggested that the length of time it had taken to consider the application at the Planning Committee would create fear for further investment in the city and was disappointed it had taken so long. He suggested the proposal would create Grade A office space which would occur without the need for public funding and the developer had a prospective tenant for the proposal. He suggested that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had suggested that this particular site might be too contaminated to build housing on.

The Committee also received representation from Mr. C. Bryson, Strategic Planning, acting on behalf of the applicant and Mr. N. McLaren, the applicant, representing Inislyn Limited.

Mr. McLaren outlined a range of support for the application. He suggested that the proposal would generate revenue for the City and that the development company had a long standing and successful relationship with the Gasworks site and the Council, having previously developed the Radisson Blue Hotel and the Lighthouse Building on the site, together with two carparks. He suggested they were committed to working alongside the Council as they developed the Masterplan for the area. He suggested that the proposal would provide high quality office and working space for approximately 550 people, during construction approximately 50 Construction jobs, and generate approximately £750,000 via various income streams. He suggested that the applicant was in the final stages of securing two prospective tenants. He suggested that they were local developers who take pride in the projects they undertook and this proposal would enhance the area. He confirmed that the Developer Contribution proposed for this development included a combination of physical works and community initiatives.

Mr. Bryson outlined his support for the planning officer's recommendation to approve the proposal. He suggested that it was in keeping with the surrounding land uses and character of the area, was in full compliance with the relevant area plan and other material considerations. He suggested that after it had been adopted, BMAP had been quashed, and it could not be a material consideration in the determination process and the court judgement was clear on that point. The site was zoned for offices in the last adopted plan, BUAP, as it was in a draft BMAP in 2004. He suggested there had been no objections from the closest 8 houses on McAuley Street to the application site. He suggested that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive consultation response of 9th June, 2016 made it clear that the high levels of contamination associated with the previous land uses had meant that other recent social housing schemes had incurred high costs and led to difficulties delivering housing in the area. He suggested that there would be no adverse impact on residential amenity and the design had included obscure glazing and planting which would ensure there would be no overlooking.

During points of clarification, Mr. McLaren suggested that the total proposed investment would be £12-13 million for the office element and confirmed that the consultation groups referred to in their report were the Gasworks Residents Committee, (attendees included Business Tenants of the Gasworks), and the Gasworks Community Forum (attendees included commercial tenants, PSNI, along with local community groups). He suggested further that the MDA had been invited to this Forum, however, did

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

not attend the meetings. He also suggested that his comments regarding the legalities of which area plan was relevant to the application were different from the Council's.

During discussion, the case officer explained that a Pre Application Notice had been served by the Council for a mixed used development which included offices, housing and retail on the remainder of the land. She provided an overview of the statutory requirements of the consultation process and advised that a condition had been applied to the recommendation regarding the remediation of contamination at the site.

The City Solicitor was requested to clarify his advice on the relevant Area Plan for the site. He advised that the BUAP was 16 years old, and the data that underpinned it was out of date. He reiterated that BMAP had to be given significant weight in terms of a planning decision, however, if there were circumstances when the Committee might wish to depart from policy, then the Committee was legally permitted to do so, as long as it gave appropriate reasons for its decision.

During further discussion, the Director highlighted paragraph 19, as outlined in the case officer's report, which stated that the Council had expressed a commitment, as of the Council Meeting on 3rd July, to move forward with an Outline Planning application for a comprehensive mixed use development for the lands, and a PAN had now been served to that affect. He advised that if approval was granted for the proposal, it would not prejudice the opportunity to deliver a master plan or the inclusion of residential use in the mixed use development.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Bunting, and
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the Committee agrees to grant approval to 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 and delegate power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

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

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

LA04/2016/2360/F Subdivision of existing retail unit 1 into 2 no. new retail units (with provision of new 1st floor mezzanine level at new unit 1B for storage); re-cladding works to existing units 2-5; demolition and reconfiguration of the front façade treatment to the elevations of new units 1A and 1B; new rear single storey extension into the service yard of unit 1B to facilitate servicing and deliveries; new dock leveller at the rear of proposed unit 1B; 1 new drive-thru restaurant

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

unit; 1 no. new drive-thru café/restaurant pod; 1 stand-alone restaurant unit; 1 no. new car sales premises; reconfiguration of existing car parking areas at Hillview Retail Park, Crumlin Road; and

LA04/2017/0361/F Subdivision of retail unit 1 into 2 retail units with mezzanine at new unit 1b, single storey rear extension with dock leveller, elevation changes including re-cladding, reconfiguration of existing car parking at Hillview Retail Park, Crumlin Road

The Committee agreed to deal with the applications together, however, noted that separate decisions were required for each of the applications, and that deputations who wished to speak had been allocated double the standard allocated time to make their representations.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that a late request to speak had been received from Councillor McCusker. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that he could make representation regarding the applications.

The case officer presented the aforementioned application - LA04/2016/2360/F, followed by the second application relating to the same retail park - LA04/2017/0361/F.

He informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, an additional 5 objections had been received regarding LA04/2016/2360/F and LA04/2017/0361/F, together with a petition, which raised the following points:

- the site was an opportunity to address housing inequality in North Belfast;
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 required due regard to the promotion of equality of opportunity;
- the district centre status of the site in BMAP was of declining influence. The site had been vacant for 10 years and the district centre use was not needed;
- approving the application would use up limited space required for housing and to tackle housing inequality in North Belfast. The Planning Committee had stated there was a need to address housing need through the emerging Local Plan;
- requested copies of the equality screening template, and any other records kept of compliance with the statutory equality duty, in relation to the work which had been undertaken under the Council's functions in relation to processing, consideration and recommendations on the two Hillview planning applications;
- raised concerns regarding the Council's obligation to fulfil human rights and equality obligations, and not discriminate on grounds of religious belief or political opinion and compliance with the Section 75 Equality Duty;
- the adverse impact on existing retailing in the locality; and
- clarification had been sought on question 25 of the planning application form (average no. of vehicles/ persons attending premises daily); and

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

- suggested that a transport assessment form should be required.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack. He highlighted that the proposal for consideration was for a retail development and the site was zoned as a District Centre in BMAP.

The Committee received representations from Councillors Collins, Clarke, McCabe, Campbell and McCusker. They outlined a range of objections to the case officer's recommendation for approval, as follows:

- zoning of housing in North Belfast;
- support and need for social housing in North Belfast and cases of homelessness in the area;
- procedural flaws regarding use of the relevant plan (BUAP and BMAP) and that the BUAP shouldn't be discounted;
- application and policy flaws;
- that there was no mention of asbestos in the case officer's report;
- the development would prejudice discussions with NIHE;
- potential of vesting the land for social housing;
- oppose the development on behalf of local residents;
- the previous retail outlet had been a failed venture;
- cross community work and consultation was needed on what form the site should take and the need for community to be on board
- questioned if the meeting date had been changed;
- suggested that not enough consideration had been given to 6.270 of the Strategic Planning Policy Statements (SPPS) regarding support and vibrancy of town centres;
- questioned the lawful use of the site;
- lack of communication throughout the process; and
- clarification on the case officer's comments in relation to aspects of the application that did not require planning permission.

During points of clarification, the Director reminded Members of the Committee cycle and the dates which had been published in relation to the August Committee.

After the deputation had spoken, one Member asked for clarification from the City Solicitor regarding evidence of a housing application for the site. The City Solicitor confirmed that there was currently no evidence to suggest interest from a Statutory Body in vesting of the site, therefore, it could not be a material consideration in the context of the application.

The Committee also received representation from Ms. G. Owens (resident), Ms. C. Ní Chuilín MLA, and Mr. S. Brady (representing Participation and the Practice of Rights) who outlined a range of objections to the proposals.

Ms. Owens suggested that her current social housing accommodation in North Belfast was inadequate and was causing her family ill health. She suggested there was a need for housing in the area, and the Equality Campaign that she was involved with had

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

delivered a petition to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of Communities in this regard. She suggested that the site would be one of the last places that families like hers could have any hope of a home and the Committee should refuse the application.

Ms. Ní Chuilín MLA suggested that there was concern from various equality campaigners that the application site had been designated for retail only use. She suggested that a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was needed regarding the proposal and failure to do so would be contrary to the spirit of Section 75. She raised concerns regarding the consultation that had taken place by the developers, the low quality of drawings and the design of the proposal. She suggested that there were opportunities on this site for mixed use, to provide employment but also social housing.

Mr. Brady outlined his objections to the proposal which included flaws in the Planning policy and procedures, and the complaints process. He suggested that he had been given the wrong date of the Planning Committee by a Council Official. He suggested that the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive had written to families in 2014, detailing that she had wished, at the time, to build homes on the site. He also suggested that a Housing Association had also brought forward an application to the Housing Executive for homes on the site in 2014. He suggested that the campaign against the proposals had drawn upon the support of 5 Political Parties and represented thousands of constituents in need. He suggested that they had carried out their own consultation forums across North Belfast and had designed a better, alternative plan for the site. He suggested that the Committee should vote on the needs of the community and refuse both applications.

The City Solicitor advised that policies that underpin Planning had been taken through the EQIA process, such as the SPSS and the Planning Statements, BMAP and the BUAP, which was what had been required in terms of legal compliance.

During points of clarification, the objecting deputation provided further information regarding their objections to both applications; problems with the consultation and planning process; the potential of Council vesting the land; and reiterated their suggestion for an EQIA for the applications.

The City Solicitor reminded the Committee that the site was owned by a private third party and was not under public authority ownership, therefore, it would be treated differently in terms of equality screening.

The Committee received representation from Mr. T. Stokes (TSA Planning, Planning Agent) and Mr. S. Beattie QC (representing the applicant) who outlined a range of support for the case officer's recommendation for approval.

Mr. Stokes provided an overview of the Planning History of the site and suggested that BMAP had zoned the site as a district centre and it was an existing, unrestricted, open class A1 retail park. He suggested that there had been strong interest from retailers, and complimentary café/restaurant/drive thru's which would help the performance of the District Centre. He suggested that the smaller application was submitted to advance discussions with a specific interested retailer and speed up the application process. He suggested it was a commercial application which aimed at bringing the Retail Park

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

back into use, and strengthen the future performance of the designated District Centre. He acknowledged that there was a need for Social Housing in the area, however, suggested that there was no policy basis for refusing permission for the current proposals based on this need.

Mr. Beattie QC provided background regarding the outcome of the Judicial Review and court of appeal regarding the relevance of the draft BMAP and the statutory BUAP. He explained his support for the application as follows:

- in BMAP, the site had been zoned as a District Centre, and in the BUAP it had been zoned a Whiteland;
- the guiding principle under the SPSS was that there was a presumption in favour of development for a proposal which was consistent with the up to date plan (e.g. BMAP);
- considerable weight should be given to the draft BMAP and there had been no objection to the designation of this site as a District Centre;
- there were no policy presumptions against this development under the BUAP's zoning of whiteland of the site either;
- no statutory agency had objected to BMAP, therefore it should get considerable weight in planning decisions;
- planning policies raised by the objectors had not counter balanced the presumption in favour of development for a proposal which was consistent with either of the area plans;
- there had been no proposals from NIHE for this site, and it was not the fault of the Council or the Developer;
- the proposition to refuse the application to facilitate the vesting process, would be an illegal, inappropriate and improper motive;

In relation to the objectors' comments, Mr. Beattie suggested SPSS 2.670 did not displace the presumption in favour of development; the equality legislation issues raised by objectors had been raised in the process of BMAP and that his client also had rights under the prevailing policies and that the proposal was policy compliant, lawful, and should be approved.

During points of clarification, the deputation supporting the applications provided further information and suggested there was no policy requirement for a Section 76 agreement, a housing proposal at the site would be inconsistent with policy, and there had been no discussions regarding social housing because of the zoning of the site. Mr. Beattie also suggested that business sustainability of the proposed retail park was not a material consideration for the applications and that the District Centre designation was at a higher level of protection from local centres, as within BMAP policy, whereas town centres had a separate policy that protected them.

After the deputations had concluded, the Development Engagement Manager advised that there was nothing to prevent the occupation of existing site as retail units. He advised that the issue of asbestos had been dealt with in the report and Environmental Health had no objections. He reminded Members that they should determine the

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

application on material considerations and that a Local Development Plan that was being prepared was the forum for addressing issues such as housing need.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Magee, and
Seconded by Councillor McAteer,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the housing need and equality, in regards to applications LA04/2016/2360/F and LA04/2017/0361/F, agrees to defer consideration of the applications to permit a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand, together with information from officers to be provided on the requirement for an equality impact assessment.

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

Application LA04/2016/2360/F

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Bunting, and
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the Committee, agrees to grant approval to the LA04/2016/2360/F application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

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

Application LA04/2017/0361/F

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Bunting, and
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the Committee, agrees to grant approval to the LA04/2017/0361/F application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

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

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2016/0051/F - Alterations to internal layout (demolition) facilitating new residential building consisting of 5 apartments (4 one bed and 1 two bed). (Amended proposal and Scheme) at Eglantine Avenue.

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Carson, Dorrian, Lyons and Mullan took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 16th May when it had originally been considered).

The Committee was reminded that the application had been originally presented to the Planning Committee on 16th May and had been deferred so that a site visit could be undertaken and also for information to be submitted from the applicant regarding reflective glazing.

He highlighted that the case officer's report of 16th May had included a recommendation to refuse the application, however, subsequently, amended application form and drawings had been submitted which had reduced the number of apartments from 6 to 5, together with details of the proposed reflective glazing. He pointed out that the amended application had been re-advertised and the neighbours re-notified and no further objections had been received.

He advised that the amended plans fully addressed the Planning Department's concerns regarding the proposal and it was now recommended for approval.

The Committee agreed (with one Member opposed) to grant approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/0106/F Change of use from a retail unit to place of worship including refurbishment and redeveloped with a two storey rear extension, single storey side extension and elevation changes at 208-212 Lisburn Road

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

The case officer advised that the following condition outlined in 12.0 of the report was no longer required: *'16. Tree numbers 22 and 24 as shown on approved drawing 15A, date stamped 28 February 2017, shall be retained and protected in accordance with the tree protection measures as set out in "The Tree Survey Report" date stamped 23 December 2016. Reason: To protect bats.'*

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0707/F Redevelopment of Andersonstown Leisure Centre

The case officer outlined the proposal for the redevelopment of Andersonstown Leisure Centre to include demolition of existing leisure centre and Ulster Bank and the erection of a new multi-purpose leisure facility building, including family leisure water

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

provision, 25m swimming pool, learner pool, fitness suite, fitness studios, ancillary rooms and associated works, public and service vehicles access via Andersonstown Road and secondary service vehicle access from Owenvarragh Park. External facilities included 2 five-a-side pitches, cycle and car parking, coach drop off points, landscaping, external water slide flumes and plaza area to the front of the centre and open space at the rear.

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 and it was also a major application.

During discussion, Members were apprised of information regarding the car parking ticketing system, flood lighting and the proposed opening hours of the complex and the case officer highlighted the planning conditions which related to these issues under 12.0 in the case officer's report.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0461/F- Extensions / Alterations to Oyster House and Royston House comprising of extensions to the 7th floor and 1 additional floor above for offices, an 8 storey lift core extension within the courtyard, creation of roof terrace, alterations to existing elevations and reconfiguration of ground floor to form 2 new retail units and entrance lobby on lands at 12 to 30 Wellington Place (Oyster House) and 42-46 Upper Queen Street (Royston House)

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

The Case Officer advised that the Council's Conservation Officer had objected to the proposed extensions as they considered that it would have a negative impact on the interpretation of the Conservation Area as a late Victorian / Edwardian commercial city centre. He advised that these concerns had been carefully considered by Officers, however, taking into account the context of the existing building and the heights and roof forms of adjoining buildings with the main views of 9 Donegall Square West (Grade A listed building) which would remain uninterrupted, along with the upgrade secured to the ground floor shop units, the impact on the conservation area was considered to be acceptable and not considered in this case to result in harm.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2016/0400/F - Apartment development (28 units) on lands at 230 Belmont Road

The Committee considered the application for an apartment development (28 units) with associated car parking, landscaping and amendments to existing access (renewal of approved application Z/2008/2449/F).

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

During discussion, the Committee raised issues regarding access, car parking and the replacement of trees.

After discussion, given the issues which had been raised regarding the traffic and impact on the trees, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand. The Committee also agreed that the Council's Tree Officer be invited to attend the site visit and Transport NI be asked for clarification on their position and attend the next Planning Committee, if possible.

LA04/2015/1465/F - Demolition of rear Hall and provision of annexe at Bloomfield Presbyterian Church

The case officer advised that the site was located within the curtilage of a Grade B1 Listed Building – Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, and the Cyprus Conservation Area.

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

LA04/2015/0773/F - Demolition of existing building and erection of new building to extend the facilities within the existing orthodontic clinic located at 218 Ormeau Road

(Councillor Lyons, who had declared an interest in this application, took no part in the debate or decision-making process, and left the table. Councillor Johnston acted as Chairperson for this application.)

The Case officer advised that the site was located within the settlement development limits of Belfast as defined in the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) and Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, and was within the North Parade/South Parade Area of Townscape Character (Draft BMAP).

During discussion, the case officer advised that although the existing building contributed strongly to the character of the area and also to the character and setting of Cooke Centenary Presbyterian Church (Grade B1 Listed Building), a structural engineer's report had been obtained which demonstrated that it was not feasible to retain the existing building, given the level of structural defects identified. He explained that the proposed replacement building and the proposed commercial use were considered to be acceptable given the planning history on the site, the business uses in the surrounding area and the fact that this was an extension of an existing business.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey, and
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application, in line with the draft conditions outlined in the addendum report, and delegate authority to

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

the Director of Planning and Place to agree and finalise the planning conditions

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

(Councillor Lyons returned to the Committee table at this point)

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

LA04/2017/0573/F - Conversion of dwelling to HMO at 9 Euterpe Street

The case officer outlined the proposal for the conversion of a dwelling to a HMO.

The case officer explained that, after assessment, the application had been recommended for refusal on the grounds that the proposal was contrary to Policy HMO 1 of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Subject Plan for Belfast City Council Area 2015, in that the number of HMO dwelling units in the Donegall Road HMO Policy Area (HMO 2/07) already exceeded the 30% threshold and no further HMO development was permitted.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/1439/F - 24 semi-detached dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping with alterations to existing on-street car parking layout at Corner site to south of junction of Forthriver Road and Forthriver Way.

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, a revised landscape plan had been received which showed additional planting, of which neighbours had been notified. She advised that the neighbour notification period expired on 21st August and that additional planting was unlikely to raise any new issues.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to deal with any further comments or issues that might be received regarding the application.

LA04/2017/1125/F - Replacement of 22.25 linear metres of 1.8m high steel bow-top fencing with 2.45m high paladin fencing at Lenadoon Millennium Park

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

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

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

LA04/2015/0670/F Residential development of 53 units comprising 33 detached, 4 semi-detached and 16 apartments on lands at Castlehill Manor, Castlehill Road

The case officer outlined the proposal for 53 dwellings comprising of 34 semi-detached dwellings, 3 detached, and 16 two-bed apartments, in addition to open space, landscaping, and associated access infrastructure. He advised that the proposal had been reduced from 74 dwellings in the original submission.

He informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, an additional 3 objections had been received, which raised the following points:

- impact on protected wildlife species;
- contrary to PPS7 and LC1 of a PPS7 – loss of privacy and overshadowing;
- impact on character – high density;
- impacts of traffic and potential impact on road safety; and
- construction and stability issues.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

After discussion, the Committee, given the issues which have been raised regarding access and drainage at the site, agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

LA04/2017/0523/F - Warehouse unit and secure yard for use as a depot for mobile shredding vehicles and on-site shredding and baling of waste facility (Part Retrospective) at Unit 3 Block B at 6-16 Duncrue Crescent

The Case officer advised that the application proposed the erection of a warehouse unit and secure yard for use as a depot for mobile collection and shredding vehicles with on-site shredding and baling of waste facilities and its associated head office (sui generis) (part retrospective).

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/1081/F - Internal reconfiguration to previously approved hotel to create an additional 31 bedrooms providing a total of 237 bedrooms at 20 Brunswick Street

The Committee considered the aforementioned application for amendments to the previously approved hotel under LA04/2015/0418/F and LA04/2016/1050/NMC to increase the number of bedrooms from 206 to 237, through a reconfiguration of the internal space (31 additional rooms).

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

The case officer advised that the proposed changes relate purely to internal reconfiguration works with no external alterations to the previously approved building.

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 for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0288/F - Demolition of existing building at 4-5 Donegall Square South for a 9 storey mixed use development including two level basement incorporating car parking and office, A1/A2/A3 use on ground floor and 1st to 8th floor offices with associated roof external plant screen at 4-5 Donegall Square South

The Case officer advised that, after the agenda had been published, the following additional objection had been received, which raised the following points:

- the height of the development;
- impact on neighbouring properties;
- loss of light; and
- impact on the setting of listed building and the conservation area.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack and clarified issues regarding the height, line-up of the cornice line and set-back of the proposal.

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, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0157/F - Revision of previous approved application (Z/2012/0645/RM) and erection of 12 detached dwellings, 4 semi-detached dwellings, 3 townhouses and 18 apartments on lands south of 25 Harberton Park

The case officer outlined the proposal for amendments to a previous planning approval (Z/2012/0645/RM) to include changes to site layout, house types and modifications to plot arrangements including ancillary buildings and landscaping for phase 3 of the development comprising of 37 dwellings in total.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

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

LA04/2015/0859/F - Split level youth club building with multi-purpose spaces at 66 Ballygomartin Road

The Case officer advised that the site was located within the development limits for Belfast. The site was zoned for Industry and Commerce within the BUAP 2001. The site was within land zoned for housing (uncommitted); and was also a Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) in draft BMAP. A Community Greenway also ran along the west and to the rear of the site in draft BMAP.

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

Z/2014/1408/F - Housing development of 51 residential units comprising 46 semi-detached and 5 detached dwellings with associated access, landscaping/open space and site works at land to north of Lyndhurst View Park

The Committee considered the aforementioned application.

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

LA04/2017/0043/F - Demolition of existing building and construction of residential development consisting of 104 apartments with associated fitness suite, car parking and landscaping at Parklands, Knocknagoney Dale

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, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/0598/F - Variation of conditions 3 (construction of hard surfaced areas), 4 (cycle parking spaces) and 6 (proposed planting) to include reference in condition 3, 4 and 6 to a reconfigured hardstanding layout on lands adjacent to East Bridge Street and accessed off Laganbank Road located between former Mayfield Leisure Centre and Central Station

The Case officer advised that permission was sought to modify conditions 3, 4 and 6 of planning approval under Z/2015/0182/F to facilitate changes to the hard and soft landscaping on the development of an office block.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th August, 2017**

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

Chairperson

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Tuesday, 1st August, 2017

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); and
Councillors Campbell, Dorrian,
Hargey, Johnston and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Ms. C. Toolan, Managing Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd;
Ms. N. Murray, Finance Manager, 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, Councillor Mullan and Mr. I. Bell.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd July.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

RESTRICTED ITEM

The information contained in the following 2 reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Shareholders' Performance Report – Quarter 1

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance during April, May and June, 2017.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,
Tuesday, 1st August, 2017**

The Members were advised that the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall had hosted some very high profile events during the first quarter, including the Routes Europe conference and the Congress of Irish Dance Teachers. The Members noted that this had followed on from a busy and successful first year of operation. The Managing Director reported that the total sales income had been 7.5% ahead of budget with room hire, additional charges and box office commission being the main contributors.

The Committee was advised that BWUH Ltd. had generated 19,965 delegate days by the end of Quarter 1, which had resulted in an economic impact of £17.2million for Belfast. The Members noted that feedback from both organisers and attendees of events had been largely positive and, in response to customer feedback, improvements had been made by Amadeus Catering in relation to the queuing process in the Belfast Waterfront. She also explained that similar improvements would be made within the Ulster Hall but that it would be more challenging due to its layout.

The Managing Director informed the Members that the final audited accounts had been agreed at the July meeting of the BWUH Board and that an internal audit had taken place in February and March, which had resulted in a yellow rating. She confirmed that a list of follow-up actions had been agreed upon and were currently being worked through.

The Finance Manager reported that BWUH Ltd. would be on budget to meet its year-end forecast.

It was reported that the heating and cooling system within the Belfast Waterfront had been identified as a defect and had been raised with both the Council's Project Management and the contractor.

In relation to the previously highlighted risk of Northern Ireland's Liquor Licensing legislation having a financial impact on Client Event Earnings, the Managing Director reported that BWUH Ltd. was in the process of applying for an Off-Sales Liquor Licence, which, if successful, she advised would be an asset to the company.

She informed the Committee that BWUH Ltd. was the first convention centre in Europe to have an interactive 3D model for room set-ups on its website and that feedback from users had been extremely positive.

In terms of Sales activity, the Members were advised that representatives of BWUH Ltd. would attend IMEX America, between 10th and 12th October 2017, where more than 3,000 suppliers from the global meetings industry would be in attendance.

The Managing Director, in response to a Member's question regarding apprenticeships, advised the Committee that the company was working with the Ulster University to explore apprenticeships in building management, facilities/technical management and event management and, while it was taking longer than originally expected, that BWUH Ltd. was working to ensure that the correct environment and support systems were in place within the company before hiring apprentices.

In response to a Member's question regarding the use of casual labour, the Managing Director stated that, while she appreciated that it was not ideal, the use of

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,
Tuesday, 1st August, 2017**

casual labour was essential within the events and meetings sector, given that some months were significantly busier than others. She pointed out that the company had, however, made a commitment not to reduce the number of full-time staff.

The Managing Director referred to a letter from the staff of BWUH Ltd. which had been sent to the Chair of the BWUH Ltd Board. It raised concerns regarding the organisational structure, job evaluation, a two-tier workforce and a pay award, and had been copied to all Members of the Shareholders' Committee. She explained a number of points in relation to the proposed pay increase and highlighted the differences between the terms and conditions for those employees who had formerly been employed by Belfast City Council and those who were new-start employees with BWUH Ltd. She stated that she had spoken to a Trade Union representative in relation to the concerns which had been raised and outlined that the Chairperson of the BWUH Board had since responded to him. The Members were advised that the Managing Director would also send a formal response and would provide all Members of the Committee with a copy.

The Committee noted the update which was provided.

Annual Report and Financial Statements

The Managing Director reminded the Committee that it had considered the year-end position and overview at its Annual General Meeting on 19th June, 2017. The full accounts had not been available at that time and it was agreed that they would be submitted to the next meeting of the Shareholders' Committee for notation.

The Committee noted the Annual Report and the Financial Statements for the period ending 31st March, 2017.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank