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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

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

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council Meetings of 2nd October, 2017 (Pages 1 - 10)
5. Request to Address the Council

(To consider a request from Youth Forum representatives to address the Council in relation to the motion being proposed by Councillor O'Hara on Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds)
6. Official Announcements
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October, 2017 (Pages 11 - 48)
8. People and Communities Committee of 10th and 18th October, 2017 (Pages 49 - 78)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 11th October, 2017 (Pages 79 - 112)
10. Licensing Committee of 18th October, 2017 (Pages 113 - 128)
11. Planning Committee of 17th October, 2017 (Pages 129 - 142)
12. Notices of Motion
 - a) Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara,
Seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna,

"This Council calls upon the British Government and the Secretary of State to bring forward legislation to extend the right to vote to everyone aged 16 or over, in time for the 2019 Local Government elections and for all future Assembly and Westminster elections and any referenda."

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Universal Credit

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

“This Council notes the well documented and evidenced hardship caused in England, Scotland and Wales by the roll out of Universal Credit.

The Council calls for an immediate halt to the rollout of Universal Credit across Northern Ireland, to protect the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged from poverty, rent arrears and homelessness and calls for all Political Parties to work to deliver a system that is fair, practical and compassionate.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to and seek a meeting with the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities about the implications of Universal Credit.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Belfast Energy Transition Strategy

Proposed by Councillor Milne,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council acknowledges the damage and disruption caused by Storm Ophelia, which additionally directly caused the death of three people. The insurance costs alone associated with Storm Ophelia are estimated to reach ten million pounds, and the economic and social consequences of school and business closures are as yet unquantified.

Whilst the science is not yet clear on whether Storm Ophelia is directly attributable to climate change, the majority of scientists agree that irregular weather patterns will become more frequent and more disruptive and that adverse weather events, as characterised by storm Ophelia, will become more commonplace as climate change progresses.

Whilst noting the devastating impact of climate change on the local people and economy and the pivotal role that carbon plays in global climate change, this Council, therefore, agrees to review and expedite previously-agreed plans for a Belfast Energy Transition Strategy.”

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

d) EU Single Market

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

"This Council recognises the critical importance of the EU Single Market to the economy of the City of Belfast and calls for a special deal to be put in place for Northern Ireland in context of Brexit that would facilitate continued participation in this Single Market.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to the UK Government and European Commission Taskforce in this regard.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Minibus Driver Licensing

Proposed by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor McVeigh,

"Recent consultations issued by the Department for Infrastructure regarding changes to minibus driver licensing requirements and the use of section 10B Permits puts transport provided in Belfast by community and voluntary groups under threat.

The Department for Infrastructure has recognised that these changes will impact on various Section 75 groups including older people, people with disabilities and women etc. Yet, despite this, it has not proceeded with a full EQIA and has proposed no mitigations to deal with the impact which this will have to service users from 1st January, 2018.

This Council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure to review its decision not to proceed with an Equality Impact Assessment, for the Department to be fully compliant with Section 75 and to suspend the consultation until such time as the Department can demonstrate that no Section 75 group will be adversely impacted by these changes."

(To be debated by the Council)

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



Chief Executive

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Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 2nd October, 2017
at 6.00 p.m., pursuant to Notice.

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

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen McKee, R. Patterson and Spence and Councillors Bunting, Campbell, McConville and Nicholl.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the special meeting which had been called to consider a recommendation of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd September to elect and admit Sir Kenneth Branagh as a Freeman of the City of Belfast.

Freedom of the City

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Alderman Convery and

Resolved – “This Council wishes to honour the outstanding achievements, over many decades, of Sir Kenneth Branagh in drama and cinema, as an actor, director, producer and screenwriter of international renown.

We record our pride in his many awards, including BAFTAs, Olivier Awards and an Emmy and his nominations for many others, including Academy and Golden Globe Awards.

**Special Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

The Council acknowledges and appreciates that this son of Belfast, despite this international success, has maintained an active involvement with various voluntary sector organisations in Belfast and Northern Ireland.

Accordingly, the Council agrees that Sir Kenneth Branagh is hereby elected and admitted as a Freeman of the City and County Borough of Belfast.”

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 2nd October, 2017
at 6.25 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

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

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 4th September be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended her deepest sympathy to the families of those people who had, on the previous night, lost their lives as a result of a shooting incident in Las Vegas and confirmed that a Book of Condolence would be made available for signature in the City Hall.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, condemned the recent intimidation of four families in Cantrell Close in the East of the City, which had forced them to vacate their homes.

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Council extended its best wishes to the Northern Ireland football team who would, on 5th October, be hosting Germany in a World Cup qualifying game.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended congratulations to Councillor Corr Johnston on the birth of her twins, Martha and Alexander.

Change of Membership on Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Alliance Party indicating that it wished to replace former Councillor Jones with Councillor McDonough-Brown on the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and Councillor Long with Councillor McReynolds on the Active Belfast Limited Board.

The Council approved the changes.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd and 28th September be approved and adopted.

Update on City Region Growth Deal

The Council agreed that the Lord Mayor, together with the Party Leaders and the Chief Executive, should meet at the earliest opportunity with Mr. M. Ryan, Bombardier Aerospace, to explore ways in which the Council could support the company, in light of a recent preliminary ruling in the United States of America which, if approved, would lead to the imposition of a significant tariff on its imports of Bombardier's C-Series jet.

The Council agreed also that the delegation should seek to meet with Mr. D. Lawton, US Consul General in Belfast, to express its concerns in relation to the ruling.

Amendment

**Consultation Report on Draft Linguistic Diversity
Policy and Language Strategy Action Plan**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd September under the heading "Consultation Report on Draft

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

Linguistic Diversity Policy and Language Strategy Action Plan” be rejected and, accordingly, the Council agrees to adopt the linguistic diversity policy and to approve the appointment of one Language Officer.

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

<u>For 20</u>	<u>Against 33</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.

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

**Introduction of a System of Proportionality
for the Position of High Sheriff**

Councillor Dudgeon requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute of the meeting of 22nd September under the heading “Introduction of a System of Proportionality for the Position of High Sheriff” being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson declined the request.

Amendment

**Introduction of a System of Proportionality
for the Position of High Sheriff**

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd September, under the heading “Introduction of a System of Proportionality for the Position of High Sheriff”, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

On a recorded vote, sixteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-two against, with three “no votes”, and it was declared lost.

<u>For 16</u>	<u>Against 32</u>	<u>No Vote 3</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Newton and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, O'Donnell, O' Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	Councillors Corr Johnston, Hutchinson and Kyle.

Amendment

**Introduction of a System of Proportionality
for the Position of High Sheriff**

Moved by Alderman McGimpsey,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd September, under the heading “Introduction of a System of Proportionality for the Position of High Sheriff”, be amended to provide that the D’hondt system of proportionality will be introduced with effect from the new Council term in 2019.

On a recorded vote, sixteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-three against, with three “no votes”, and it was declared lost.

<u>For 16</u>	<u>Against 33</u>	<u>No Vote 3</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Long,	Councillors Corr Johnston, Hutchinson and Kyle.

**Meeting of Council,
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Councillors Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Newton and Reynolds.	Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, O'Donnell, O' Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	
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**Request for a Matter to be Taken
Back for Further Consideration**

**Belfast City Council Decade of
Centenaries Programme 2017 - 2022**

At the request of Councillor Dudgeon, the Chairperson, with the consent of the Council, agreed that the minute of the meeting of 22nd September under the heading "Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2017 - 2022" be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

European Capital of Culture – Next Steps

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Chief Executive undertook to ensure that the current temporary signage in the City Hall, promoting the European Capital of Culture bid, would be balanced in terms of the languages used.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing additions and omission, the minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd and 28th September were approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 12th September be approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th September be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

City Centre Investment Fund Update

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for information providing details of those applications which were being recommended to progress to Stages 2 and 3 of the City Centre Investment Fund process, once the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had taken a decision on the funding.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meetings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th September were approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Howard and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 20th September, 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 McDonough-Brown and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 19th September, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Operation of the Planning Committee

In response to an issue which had been raised by Councillor McVeigh around the rationale for including this item within the minutes of the meeting, the Chief Executive confirmed that clarification would be provided at the next meeting of the Planning Committee and that the Member would also be provided with clarification.

Notices of Motion

Citizens' Basic Income Scheme

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

“This Council recognises the devastating impact that unemployment and benefit cuts can have upon citizens, families and communities.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

The Council will explore, as part of a wider employability initiative and with the help of the Executive, the implementation of a Citizens' Basic Income (CBI) scheme. In order to inform this process, the Council will undertake a feasibility study into how it might support a pilot study concentrated within our most deprived communities.

The CBI initiative would mean, for those identified as part of the initiative, the replacement of benefits and pensions with an unconditional flat rate payment. Citizens would then be able to work and earn additional income on top of the basic payment. Such a scheme has the potential to help eradicate poverty and homelessness in the City."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hutchinson.

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

Traffic in the City Centre

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

"This Council has grave concerns about traffic congestion in the City centre, particularly at the back of City Hall, resulting from recent new arrangements. A major source of the problem at peak times is the prohibition on vehicles (except buses and emergency services) going from Donegall Square East into Adelaide Street from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

This means that cars must either go into Chichester Street, turn right into Montgomery Street, then right into May Street and left into Adelaide Street, or use Donegall Square East, then Donegall Square South and Bedford Street to go in an eastern or south-eastern direction. There is no other reasonable way for vehicles to go from the west or south west of the City to the south and east, despite the description of the route as a rat run.

Cars accessing Adelaide Street between June, 2015 and August, 2016 were caught by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) camera in Donegall Square East on 18,000 occasions, resulting in £1 million of fines. This proves the difficulty faced by drivers and especially visitors to the City.

The Council, therefore, calls on DfI, working in conjunction with Translink, to end the prohibition on traffic entering Adelaide Street from Donegall Square East. This would also enable the removal of the large and unsightly electronic warning sign in Donegall Square East and free up the traffic island on which it sits."

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rodgers.

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

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme

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

“This Council opposes the proposed ending of the Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme by the Department of Education, from 31st October 2017; and expresses deep concern at the impact which the potential loss of this award winning cross community programme will have for primary school pupils, primary schools and the sporting coaches involved.

The Council agrees to write to and seek an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education to highlight this concern.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Boyle.

At the request of Councillor Heading, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to provide for the addition of the following sentence at the conclusion of the first paragraph: “The Council notes with great concern the cut made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut of £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school.”

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

Drugs Related Deaths and Suicides

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

“This Council notes with growing concern the rise of drug related deaths and suicides in the city and across Northern Ireland and calls on local and central government to make tackling this epidemic a priority.

The council agrees to seek an urgent cross party meeting with the Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Agency, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the community and voluntary sector working on the front line dealing with this growing problem to agree a co-ordinated action plan.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

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

The Council noted that, in order to ensure that there was a co-ordinated approach to addressing addiction related issues, the actions called for within Councillor McCusker’s motion would be progressed alongside those within Council O’Hara’s motion on Mental Health and Addiction Support Services which had been passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd May and which had already commenced.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 20th October, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

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

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd September and the special meeting of 28th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd October.

Declarations of Interest

In respect of agenda item (8a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership – in so far as it related to Good Relations Grant Aid 2017/18 – the following Members declared an interest and left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration:

- Councillor O'Neill in that a relative was employed by Prime Cuts;
- Councillor Walsh undertook some employment for Coiste Na Nlarchimi; and
- Alderman Spence as he was on the Board of Currie Primary School.

Each of the aforementioned organisations had submitted an application for funding.

Restricted Items

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.

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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, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Changes to Current Catering Arrangements

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this matter to enable the Ulster Unionist Party to receive a briefing.

Update on City Hall Exhibition

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report which provided an update on the City Hall Exhibition to enable Party Briefings to take place.

Waste Collections and Alignment of the Fleet Management Unit within City and Neighbourhoods

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th August, it had agreed to relocate the Fleet Management Unit to City and Neighbourhood Services by April, 2018. Currently it was part of the Facilities Management Section, which 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. In addition, the Committee was reminded of the high profile public services, such as domestic refuse collection and street cleansing, including parks, that were dependent on the effective and efficient management of fleet assets. Therefore, the Committee had agreed also to authorise the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department to submit a further report outlining how the Fleet Management structure and associated support services could best be integrated into the City and Neighbourhood Services Department to support the objectives of that Department's change programme. Accordingly, the Director submitted a report in this regard.

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Create a new permanent post of Logistics Manager (PO10), to manage the waste collection and fleet elements within the City and Neighbourhood Services Department, with implementation for January 2018.
- (b) Create a new permanent post of Fleet and Transport Manager (PO6) to recognise a revised reporting line and responsibilities and to delete the Fleet Manager post and ensure the temporary postholder was dealt with appropriately in line with BCC HR policies and procedures.
- (c) Realign the reporting line of the Transport and Priority Waste Manager and function from Cleansing Services to report to the newly created Fleet and Transport Manager post, and to refresh the Transport and Priority Waste Manager job description.
- (d) Realign the reporting line of the Operations Manager (Waste Collection and Recycling) to report to the newly created Logistics Manager post and

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 20th October, 2017

refresh the Operations Manager (Waste Collection and Recycling) job description.

- (e) Realign the reporting line of the Technical Standards and Compliance Officer from the Parks and Cemeteries Operational structure to report to the newly created Fleet and Transport Manager post.
- (f) Create a temporary Commercial Waste Collection Manager post to manage and drive improved customer service and operational delivery of Commercial Waste Collection operations and exploit opportunities to maximise income generation.
- (g) Realign the reporting line of the Occupational Road Risk Assistant to the Transport and Priority Waste Manager following the deletion of the Occupational Road Risk Manager post.
- (h) Realign the reporting line of the Waste Transfer Station Officer from the Head of Service to the Waste Manager (Service Planning and Delivery).
- (i) Approve the overall revised staffing structures as detailed in appendix 3 to the report.
- (j) Approve that, after a bedding in period of 12-18 months, this structure be reviewed to ensure that it remained fit for purpose and make further structural refinements if required.

Establishment of a Temporary SPV
(Management Company) to manage Plots 2, 3, 4
and 5 at the Ormeau Gasworks Limited Site,
Gasworks, Belfast

The Committee was advised that the Council had been in discussions with Administrators representing Ormeau Gasworks Limited (OGL) in an effort to address and resolve the structure, title issues and to protect the Council's interests at the Gasworks and particularly on the dissolution of OGL. It was proposed that the Council establish a temporary Special Purchase Vehicle (management company) (SPV) to facilitate an assignment from the Administrators of the Head Leases in respect of Plots 2, 3, 4, and 5 at the Ormeau Gasworks, Belfast, together with a transfer of the arrears portfolio, if any.

The Committee:

- Agreed to the establishment of a SPV to enable assignment from the Administrators to the SPV of the head leases which relate to Plots 2, 3, 4, and 5 at the Ormeau Gasworks Limited site, Gasworks, Belfast;
- Noted that the temporary SPV would be managed and controlled by the Council and would ultimately deal with processing of rent and service charges and agreed to provide an indemnity to the Director of Property and Projects and the City Solicitor who would be appointed as directors;
- Noted that it was intended that the SPV would assign its interest to the relevant subtenants where agreement could be reached and, where agreement could not be reached with subtenants, to deal with those plots in the most advantageous way possible that benefitted the Council. Thereafter, the temporary SPV would be wound up and cease to exist when all structure and title issues had been resolved to the Council's and the SPV's satisfaction; and

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- In accordance with Standing Order 47(2)(a), due to the urgency of the matter where an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or public's interests, agreed that the decision would not be subject to call-in.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion re: Citizens Basic Income Scheme

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 2nd October, the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McVeigh, and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council recognises the devastating impact that unemployment and benefit cuts can have upon citizens, families and communities.

The Council will explore, as part of a wider employability initiative and with the help of the Executive, the implementation of a Citizens' Basic Income (CBI) scheme. In order to inform this process, the Council will undertake a feasibility study into how it might support a pilot study concentrated within our most deprived communities.

The CBI initiative would mean, for those identified as part of the initiative, the replacement of benefits and pensions with an unconditional flat rate payment. Citizens would then be able to work and earn additional income on top of the basic payment. Such a scheme has the potential to help eradicate poverty and homelessness in the City."

The Committee agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting.

Notice of Motion re: Party Leaders' Forum

The Committee considered further a report in relation to the notice of motion on Party Leaders' Forum and agreed that it be deferred to be considered again by the Party Leaders' Forum.

Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2017–2022

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To seek the approval of Members on the proposed governance, delivery and content for the Decade of Centenaries Programme.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** That the Decade of Centenaries commemoration programme be delivered by the Good Relations Unit with the governance emanating from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Shared City Partnership and party group leaders.
- 2.2** That all other Commemoration proposals and projects be dealt with by the Historic Working Group, with Good Relations input as required, where any potential commemorative activity is of a sensitive nature.
- 2.3** To agree the proposed Decade of Centenaries programme for delivery over the coming 6 years. The programme includes activity within the current Council term, with agreement in principle on activity to be delivered following the Council elections in 2019. Any activity agreed for beyond 2019, would be reviewed at that stage.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** The Members will be aware of the programme of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, which has been ongoing since 2011. The Decade of Centenaries was considered by the Diversity Working Group until March of this year, when that group ceased. Following this a Historic Working Group (HWG) was created to *'prioritise historic events and related issues. That would mean a move away from a Good Relations focus, with Good Relations primarily being discussed by Party Leaders and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.'*
- 3.2** *The HWG met on 3 August and agreed the following Terms of Reference:*

- *to consider how the Council can maximise and promote the historic richness of legacies and assets of Belfast;*
- *to develop a long term plan to celebrate, promote and commemorate our historic assets and events*
- *to apply the agreed core set of principles established to commemorate any events;*
- *to advise on the detailed decade of centenaries programme once agreed via Party Leaders and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and*
- *to make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee regarding the issues above.*

- 3.3 The Committee will know that the Council delivers an annual District Council Good Relations programme which includes a work stream on Decade of Centenaries. Since the beginning of the Centenaries period, the Good Relations Unit has been the main council unit responsible for the delivery this work.
- 3.4 Members will also be aware that the Shared City Partnership (SCP), formerly the Good Relations Partnership, is a working group of council established to advise on good relations issues. This group is also the formal mechanism for consideration of PEACE IV proposals.
- 3.5 On this basis it is considered more appropriate for the Shared City Partnership, rather than the Historic Working Group to oversee the Decade of Centenaries programme since this programme has clear good relations outcomes. This would take Decade of Centenaries out of the remit of the Historic Working Group and remove this remit from the HWG's terms of reference thus avoiding duplication. However, all other commemorative activity, outside of the Decade of Centenaries programme, would sit within the remit of the HWG.
- 3.6 In support of this, the PEACE IV local action plan also contains a community focused piece of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, which again will be driven out of the Councils overall Good Relations work. There is clear benefit in keeping all of this work co-ordinated through the one governance mechanism.
- 3.7 As a working group of council, all Shared City Partnership recommendations require approval by The Strategic policy and Resources Committee (SP&R). Officers also recommend that all potentially sensitive elements of the Decade of Centenaries programme would be brought first to the Party Group Leaders to consider before being brought to SCP and then to SP&R for approval.

3.8 Future Programme

In 2011, Members of the then Historic Centenaries Working Group had agreed a three phased approach to the Decade of Centenaries, divided into 3 phases. The first period, 1912-1914, was entitled 'Shared History, Differing Allegiances'. The second period, 1914-1918, would cover the period of World War I, including the Somme and the Easter Rising. This activity, under the banner of 'Belfast; Reflections on 1916' was hugely successful. The third period, 1918-1922, would cover the end of WWI, the 1918 elections and the establishment of parliaments in Belfast and Dublin.

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- 3.9** Major exhibitions were commissioned for the Covenant, the Somme and the Easter Rising and that there was a Civic Dinner to mark each of these three major historical events. All of this activity, and more, has been delivered thus far.
- 3.10** At the August 2016 meeting of the Diversity Working Group, Members requested that officers develop a programme for the remainder of the Decade, until 2022.
- 3.11** In line with the request of Members, a programme was developed, in consultation with the Parties and the Diversity Working Group for consideration regarding the key events to be delivered for the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries; 1917 – 1922. The proposals sit within a number of themes and contain a series of events to be delivered within each theme (see appendices 1 and 2)
- 3.12** Central to the events programme, Members also requested that in addition to continuing with the previously agreed Decade of Centenaries Principles, the following would also apply:
- Activity being planned would continue with the objective of having a strong Belfast focus, exploring the human stories of lost lives and be respectful.
 - The current Principles, agreed in 2011, will inform all activity within the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries
- 3.13** In discussions with Party Group Leaders, they requested that officers also explore the possibility of delivering a large exhibition covering the themes within appendix 1 during this final phase of the Decade of Centenaries.
- 3.14** With the ceasing of the Diversity Working Group, Party Group Leaders agreed to the delivery of year one of the programme (appendix 3), with the May and June elements to be resourced through the Good Relations Action Plan. Subsequent to this, the Budget Panel agreed to the financing of the remainder of the 2017 – 2018 programme at its June meeting. Officers are undertaking work in relation to the delivery of these activities.
- 3.15** While parties have been consulted and involved in developing the proposed themes and programmes for 2018 – 2022, no approval has been granted to deliver these yet.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

All programme activity for the 2017/2018 financial year is fully funded. No agreement on funding beyond March 2018 has been made. Potential costings are detailed in appendix 2 and would need to be considered through the estimate setting process.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Decade of Centenaries programme is included within the Good Relations Action Plan, which was screened out following an Equality Screening exercise.”

Appendix 1: Proposed themes from 1917 – 1922

In preparing the programme of events and activities for 1916, Members had requested that any Council activity should focus on the following elements:

- That any activity would have a strong Belfast focus
- That the human stories of lost lives would be explored, as a common thread
- That commemoration activity would be respectful

Thematic approach:

Following consultations with Parties in 2016 and early 2017 the following significant events are being suggested for inclusion within the remainder of the Decade under a number of themes, as follows:

1. Politics and Parliaments.

The Irish Convention of August 1917 – March 1918. The Convention met in City Hall. General Election of 1918. First meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919.

2. The end of World War I.

Post war Belfast, changing roles, injury, trauma and loss. Treaty of Versailles. European Borders redrawn.

3. The politicisation of women

In 1918, women over 30 had the vote for the first time in a General Election. First woman MP elected. Women in the Trade Union movement.

4. Labour must wait.

Both in Ulster and in the rest of Ireland, advances in the labour movement had to take second place to the constitutional issues of the day.

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5. Violence, conflict, militarisation and displacement.

Between July 1920 and September 1922, Belfast experienced a series of outbreaks of rioting, violence and killing, resulting in huge loss of life and displacement of people from neighbourhoods across the City. 450 people died violently during this period. In October 1920, the Ulster Special Constabulary was founded and by 1922, the A, B and C specials numbered 32,000. On the 22nd June 1922, the RUC was founded.

6. The Kings Speech

June 1921, opening of the new Northern Ireland Parliament at City Hall by King George V. In his speech, he called on Irishmen 'to forgive and forget and to seek for the land loved a new era of peace, contentment and good will'.

7. Anglo Irish Treaty. Partition of Ulster; Partition of Ireland

In February 1920, the Government of Ireland Act (4th Home Rule Bill) provided for the setting up of two parliaments on the island. The Kings speech of 1921 was seen as paving the way for the truce on the 11th July 1921 in the Anglo-Irish war, leading directly to the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations.

These themes incorporate similar popular themes that have been woven through the Council's Decade of Centenaries Programmes over the first two phases: Women, the Labour movement, Politics, conflict, the social life of the City, as well as forthcoming key momentous events such as the opening of the new NI Parliament in City Hall. The themes, with a strong Belfast connection, could be reflected through any style of activity similar to the first two phases, such as talks, lectures, exhibitions and drama.

Appendix 2: Outline activity and broad costs for programme from 2017 – 2022

Based on previous programmes the following indicative costs would be required in the delivery of work around the Decade of Centenaries over the period covered by the proposals in this report.

Politics and Parliaments.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
An exploration of the Irish Convention of August. (Talk/lecture) Possible re-enactment of the Convention, using drama and use of the Council Chamber as a venue, subject to agreement and approval	October 2017	£10,000
An analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the First meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919. (Talk/Lecture)	January 2018	£2,500

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The end of World War I.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
End of the First World War (Talk/lecture/candle event)	November 2018	£1,500
Belfast after the First World War (Talk/lecture)	November 2018	£1,500
Europe after the First World War (Talk/lecture)	February 2019	£1,500

The politicisation of women

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Women and politics in post war Belfast, Representation of the People Act Feb 1918 (Talk and drama evening)	February 2018	£2,500

Labour must wait.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Evening event on “Labour must wait”, to explore the interface between the labour movement and the constitutional priorities of the day for Unionism and Nationalism. (Talk and drama evening)	May 2019	£2,500

Violence, conflict, militarisation and displacement.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Militarisation. The early years of the RUC. Relocation of personnel. Establishment of the Special constabulary (Talk/lecture)	Oct 2020	£1,500
Violence, conflict and displacement in Belfast from 1920 – 1922 (Talk/lecture)	April 2021	£1,500

The Kings Speech

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Re-enactment of the Official Opening of the Parliament of Northern Ireland, using the Council Chamber	June 2021	£5,000

Anglo Irish Treaty. Partition of Ulster; Partition of Ireland

Activity	Date	Potential cost
War, treaty and the Craig Collins Pact (Talk and drama evening)	November 2021	£2,500
An exploration of the impact of partition on Northern Nationalists and Ulster Unionists within Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal (Talk/lecture)	February 2022	£1,500

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The end of the Decade of Centenaries (Conference)	March 2022	£5,000
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The costs could be borne by the Council's District Council's Good Relations Programme, which is 75% funded by the Executive Office and core Council costs.

An exhibition to capture the above themes into one exhibit would cost in the region of £60,000, based on previous experience. A suitable timeframe for this has been identified as being best delivered within the period 2019 – 2021, but incorporating all of the themes within the whole of the third phase. There is currently no resource for this.

Previous Civic Dinners have cost in the region of £20,000 each. Currently there are no plans for any civic dinners in the final phase.

Appendix 3 – Programme delivered in this financial year

At Budget Panel and subsequently at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 24th March 2017, agreement was reached on a series of events and activities to be delivered within the 2017 – 2018 financial year, as follows:

Theme: Politics and Parliaments

Activity	Date	Potential cost
An exploration of the Irish Convention of August. (Talk/lecture)/Possible re-enactment of the Convention, using drama and use of the Council Chamber as a venue, subject to agreement and approval	October 2017	£10,000
An analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the First meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919. (Talk/Lecture)	January 1918	£2,500

Theme: The End of World War I.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Battle of Messines and Passchendaele	May/June 2017	£4,000
The World and the First World War- Russian Revolutions (Talk/lecture)	November 2017	£1,000

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Theme: The Politicisation of Women

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Women and politics in post war Belfast (Talk and drama evening)	February 2018	£3,000

Events around the Battle of Messines and Passchendaele were delivered by external organisations, namely the 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association and the Fellowship of Messines Association in May and June this year. Members will also be aware that at its August meeting, it approved a small sum of money for a series of events to be delivered later on in the year by Clifton House. This was funded through the Good Relations Action Plan.

The remaining events, which are being delivered by the Council are as follows:

1. The Irish Convention of 1917-1918: The Last Hope of Averting Partition? Thursday 26th October 2017, 6.30pm, Council Chamber.
2. The Russian Revolutions and World War I; Monday 27th November 2017, 6.30pm, Banqueting Hall.
3. An analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the first meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919; Thursday 18th January 2018, 6.30pm, Banqueting Hall.
4. The Representation of the People Act 1918, and its impact on women in politics; Thursday 8th February 2018, 6.30pm.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Strategic Issues/Belfast Agenda

**City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update –
Proposed Recasting to Support the City’s Growing
Tourism Infrastructure**

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 proposals to recast the focus of the City Centre Social Outcomes Fund to support the city’s growing tourism infrastructure.**

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- agree that the £4m City Centre Social Outcomes Fund, which was previously agreed by Committee in September 2015, is re-aligned to support capital tourism projects and/or social economy opportunities, with an emphasis on the development of community tourism.
- agree that investment under this fund is prioritised in the East and West given the substantial investment in the Belfast Rapid Transit network and the area surrounding the Transport Hub in the city centre which will act as the focal gateway for tourists arriving in the city.
- note that, if agreed, an outcomes framework will be developed and that this investment will also form part of the Council's contribution to the City Deal.
- agree in principle the recommendations as laid out in the Table 1 below and to note these projects will be subject to the Council's three stage approval process for all physical projects. It is therefore recommended that these projects are added as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects with further information to be brought back to Committee in due course.
- note that work is continuing on tourism opportunities in other areas of the city as outlined at 3.12 below and that the potential for a further phase of funding will be examined for similar projects in the other areas of the city as this work develops.

3.0 **Main report**

3.1 Members will be aware that one of the ambitions laid out in the Belfast Agenda is to increase the number of tourists to the city along with the amount of tourism spend. This is supported by the vision which is laid out in the Council's Integrated Tourism Strategy, which was approved by Committee in May 2015, to *'welcome the world and share its history by creating a destination that the world wants to experience first-hand'* and which sets a challenging target of doubling the value of tourism by 2020. One of the other facets of the Belfast Agenda is to grow the city's economy and to increase the opportunities in the city for social economy and entrepreneurship. The substantial investment which is either currently underway or planned in tourism infrastructure across the city including the £100m Integrated Transport Hub which will act as the gateway access point for visitors arriving in the city, the proposed new

cruise ship terminal at the Belfast Harbour, the growing number of hotels and the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) system provide the opportunity to act as catalysts for a range of social economy opportunities related to tourism including cafes, walking tours, cultural and tourism trails, craft and art opportunities etc.

- 3.2** The majority of tourism at the moment is concentrated in and around the immediate vicinity of the city centre given the concentration of tourism products including the Titanic Visitor Attraction and the City Hall and the easy accessibility of the city centre from the airport/train station and cruise ship docking point. Members will also be aware of the work currently underway on the development of a City Deal that a key component of this will be the creation of a new regionally significant tourism attraction in the city centre – the ‘Belfast Story’. This will help to reinforce the attraction of the city centre in terms of visitor numbers.
- 3.3** However, Belfast’s unique and rich story extends past the city centre and there is a need to ensure that the benefits of tourism growth are felt right across Belfast.
- 3.4** Members, through the Area Working Groups (AWGs), have already recognised the potential of local tourism and under the Local Investment Fund(LIF) and the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) a number of the AWG’s have already prioritised investment in local tourism products for example the Eastside Visitor Centre in East and Faightle Feirste Thiar in the West. The AWGs have also regularly received presentations from community groups who have innovative ideas about ways to increase local tourism and this enthusiasm, new thinking and goodwill can now be built upon.
- 3.5** Members will also recall that the importance of local neighbourhoods in telling the rich story of Belfast has already been recognised by Committee and is evidenced by the Committee approval in May 2017 for the delivery of this year’s Tourism Plan which placed an emphasis on the development of community tourism. This outlined the aim of developing tourism infrastructure across the city, providing support to tourism related groups and enhancing the product offers. In August of this year Committee further agreed that the first stage of activity in respect of local tourism would be to prioritise work with partners in East and West Belfast with the introduction of the new BRT system.
- 3.6** Members back in September 2015 agreed the establishment of the £4m City Centre Social Outcomes Fund. However, as outlined above since this time the ambitions and the agenda

of the Council have moved on with the finalisation of the Belfast Agenda and there is now an opportunity to re-align this fund to support in the first instance tourism initiatives and/or social economy initiatives which are developed to support the growing tourism infrastructure. It is also therefore proposed that its scope is extended beyond the boundary of the city centre.

- 3.7 Similar to the BIF/LIF it is proposed that this will be for capital projects only. All projects under this funding stream will be subject to going through the Council's three stage approval process for physical projects and will be subject to the same level of rigorous due-diligence as all LIF and BIF projects.
- 3.8 It is important for Members to also note that these projects funded under this stream will be more than just a capital investment. It is intended that the capital investment will act as a catalyst and that these projects will deliver wider social outcomes including employment opportunities and how we can work with partners to maximise these – e.g. the Department for Communities who are currently looking at neighbourhood tourism as the new basis for their regeneration activity under Neighbourhood Renewal. In addition, officers will work with the Groups to see how programming opportunities around these projects can be maximised – for example the development of tours, opportunities for co-events which will bring people across the city; opportunities for how these investments can enhance the work already underway on the Good Relations agenda, for example, bringing people to areas of the city they might not otherwise access.
- 3.9 Given this Members are asked to note that, if agreed, an outcomes framework will be developed and that this investment will also form part of the Council's contribution to the City Deal.

Projects proposals

- 3.10 As outlined above there has already been a range of work undertaken in respect of local tourism given the work to date on the Integrated Tourism Strategy, the conversations around the Belfast Agenda and discussions and proposals which have been raised at the AWGs.

Through all these mechanisms a number of projects have already been identified as laid out in the Table 1. These projects are concentrated in the East/West and the area around the Transport Hub given the significant investment in these infrastructure developments.

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Members are asked to note that these projects have synergies with other tourism projects in the areas as evidenced by the Map at Appendix 1 and that projects are being brought forward now due to the risk of losing additional match funding, potential to acquire buildings and/or the potential for future match funding. Members are asked to agree the projects as outlined in Table 1 below.

3.11 Table 1 Proposed projects

PROJECT	IMPACT AREA	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION
Shankill Mission	West	Development of a social economy training hotel	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £750,000
Eastside Visitor Centre	East	Development of a new Tourism exhibition space and extension of building at CS Lewis Square	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £700,000 <i>Potential match funding – UV</i>
Rock Centre	West	Development of new tourism visitor centre	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £200,000
Coffee Culture	Transport Hub	Development of a social economy café designed to support investment in tourism infrastructure including the Transport Hub and Gilpins	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £100,000 <i>Potential match funding – UV</i>
Assembly Buildings Conference Centre	Transport Hub	Exhibition and Genealogical Research Space	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £90,000
Sandy Row Community Forum	Transport Hub	Development of a Tourism Trail (with digital	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced

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PROJECT	IMPACT AREA	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION
		element) to complement the Transport Hub	allocation of £80,000 <i>Potential match funding – UV</i>
Belfast Orange Hall Museum	West	Disability Access to Museum/ Renovation of frontage on the Cultural Corridor	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £80,000
James Connolly Interpretive Centre	West	Development of a dedicated interactive exhibition, study area, library of Connolly's writing and tourist facilities	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £1,000,000
Roddy McCorley Museum	West	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £1,000,000

* See Map at Appendix 1

3.12 The Committee is asked to note that these are ‘in-principle’ recommendations only at this stage and do not constitute final investment decisions in any project. As with all projects these will be required to go through the Council’s three stage approval process and Committee will be kept up to date of their progress. All projects will be tested against the Council’s 4 ‘investment abilities’ – feasibility/affordability/deliverability and sustainability. Other areas/initiatives

3.13 Members will appreciate that there is a need to ensure that the benefits of local tourism are felt across the city and the Committee is asked are asked to note that there are a number of other initiatives currently underway across the city which fall outside the prioritised area including –

- **North – Belfast Hills/Belfast Castle/Belfast Zoo/Cavehill Country Park and the north Foreshore (see Map at Appendix 1) – Members will be aware that it has been**

agreed to explore the future options in relation to Belfast Zoo. Work is also currently underway at looking at options for the 'Old Zoo' as well as the options for Belfast Castle. In addition, Members will be aware that the development briefs for the tourism/leisure uses at the North Foreshore have recently been returned and that there was a high level of interest in this and that these are currently being assessed. Council officers are also progressing discussions with the National Trust in respect of the Belfast Hills and how this significant natural asset can be fully utilised from a tourism perspective.

- South – Botanic Gardens (Tropical Ravine/Palm House)/Friar's Bush/Lagan Corridor/Gatekeepers Cottage/Stranmillis Gateway – Members will be aware that the Tropical Ravine is currently undergoing a £4.2m redevelopment supported by Heritage Lottery funding and is due to re-open in February. Also, Members agreed last month that the Palm House was added to the Capital Programme and that conversations are initiated with HLF with the aim of carrying out a similar refurbishment on the Palm House. This could represent over £8m being invested in Botanic Gardens and will be a major step in restoring this park to its Victorian glory and creating a significant tourism and heritage offering. This is further supported by the historic Friar's Bush Cemetery next door as well as the Ulster Museum and QUB. The South AWG also agreed to focus its attention on the Lagan as a significant tourism and leisure offering and commissioned the 'Back to the River' study as part of this. Works on the new £3.7m Stranmillis Gateway is due to commence early next year.

3.14 Officers are continuing to engage with relevant tourism organisations etc. in other parts of the city to see how local tourism initiatives can be developed in these locations.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

- *Financial* – £4m - the monies for this Fund have already been ringfenced – this is simply repurposing the Fund to allow for projects outside the city centre and to support projects with a focus on tourism. It is recognised that further support may be required for other initiatives in areas of the city as these further develop and it is purposed that this will be kept under review and further updates will be brought back as required for Members.

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- **Resources – officer time to work with Groups to develop up projects.**

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Fund will be subject to the Council’s equality screening process.”

Moved by Councillor McDonough-Brown,
Seconded by Councillor O’Neill,

That the Committee agrees that the £4m City Centre Social Outcomes Fund be re-aligned to support tourism projects and/or social economy opportunities, with an emphasis on community tourism but that the Committee does not agree to the projects at this time pending further assessment on which projects could be brought forward.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations as set out in the report but that other projects be allowed to be brought forward for inclusion on a reserve list.

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

The amendment was thereupon put as the substantive motion, when thirteen members voted for and five against and it was declared carried.

Governance/Members' Issues

Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Stakeholders Forum – Appointment of Members

The Committee was reminded that the Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Masterplan had been published by the Department for Communities (DfC) in December, 2016 following a consultation exercise to which the Council had submitted a corporate response.

The plan committed the Department to the preparation of a Delivery Framework and to the establishment of a forum of key stakeholders which would:

- Support the development of the Delivery Framework;
- Support and advise in terms of the delivery and monitoring of the Framework; and
- Provide a key communication channel with other stakeholders.

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The forum membership would be drawn from across the private, community and business sectors and statutory agencies. The first meeting was scheduled to be held on 16th November and it was expected that it would meet at least on one further occasion in December/January to finalise the Delivery Framework. Thereafter, the Forum would meet to support and advise in terms of the delivery and monitoring of the Framework as well as continue to provide a key communication channel with stakeholders.

The Department for Communities had issued an invitation for all Members of both the Castle and Oldpark District Electoral Areas to be appointed to the Forum. It was pointed out that the appointments were not based on proportionality but geographically based. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the Committee to accept the invitation.

The Committee approved the appointment of all Members of both the Castle and Oldpark District Electoral Areas to the Clarendon (Sailortown) Stakeholders Forum.

Request to Film Council Meeting for BBC Documentary

The Committee was advised that Erica Starling Productions had been commissioned by BBC Northern Ireland to make a documentary about the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Northern Ireland. As part of that documentary, they were keen to film Councillor Dudgeon due to his involvement with the campaign for decriminalisation.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that the production company had requested specifically to film Councillor Dudgeon during the monthly Council meeting on 1st November, 2017. The company had been advised that, should permission be granted, they would be required to film from a static position at the rear of the Council Chamber. It was not anticipated that the filming would cause any disruption to the proceedings of the meeting.

In previous years, the Council had permitted the filming of individual members about whom documentaries were being made, although those documentaries were about the year in office of sitting Lord Mayors.

If the Committee was minded to accede to the request, then, following the ratification of the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at the Council meeting on 1st November, representatives of the production company would require access to the Council Chamber to commence filming.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request from Erica Starling Productions to film at the monthly Council meeting on 1st November, 2017.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Area Planning – Peace IV

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues”

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide members with an update on initial thoughts around developing our approach to area planning using Peace IV as a catalyst to develop this work.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report
- Approve the further development of this work with initial engagement through Party Group briefings and Area Working Groups.

3.0 Main report

Area Planning

3.1 The Belfast Agenda is the city's first community plan which sets out our joint vision and long-term ambitions for Belfast's future, as well as outlining our priorities for action over the next four years.

3.2 One of the key priorities identified in the draft document is 'living here' with a key work stream to 'Design an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and maximise the impact of local assets and investment'.

3.3 Despite significant capital and revenue investment in local areas across Belfast, too often we are not maximising the opportunities and resources available to us. Through our community planning process, we now have an opportunity to start to integrate a range of programmes and services at an area level in order to improve outcomes for our residents, and visitors.

3.4 To start to progress this, some of the key pieces of work that we want to develop with members and partners include;

- Developing our approach to area working and model for area planning;
- Developing a neighbourhood regeneration framework which will include a range of key workstreams identified in the Belfast Agenda ,for example, employability and skills, health and wellbeing, community safety, good relations.

3.5 To help achieve the above we need to harness some of the opportunities that currently exist through current and planned

investment in specific areas. Where there are current investment opportunities the Council can lead on developing an emerging area planning model for delivering against the priorities identified in the Belfast Agenda.

Peace IV

- 3.6 One of the opportunities we have to test this area planning approach exists through Peace IV. Council officers have been working closely with Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) over the past number of months to submit an action plan for Belfast which, if successful will provide significant investment both capital and revenue to deliver a number of projects under the themes of Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations. We have received positive feedback from the SEUPB steering committee and are hopeful that we will be successful in our application for funding.
- 3.7 The Shared Spaces and Service theme that was submitted as part of this plan focused on delivery along the Springfield Road area. This area has a number of interfaces including the longest physical barrier in the city. In the Peace IV submission, a number of sites are proposed are possible physical regeneration projects with significant programming opportunities also forming part of the submission.
- 3.8 The proposed initiatives under, Peace IV presents a unique opportunity to be a catalyst for social and economic regeneration, peace building and reconciliation through improved connectivity and greater emphasis on shared space. The Peace IV plan should not be delivered in isolation. Importantly, existing and potential new programmes of work within the area could also be aligned to build on the potential to improve outcomes for residents in this area.

Complimentary Work

- 3.9 As well as the potential work included in the Peace IV bid there are a number of complementing existing and possible new investment opportunities in this area, both capital and programming, which include approaches from the Council and other statutory partners.
- 3.10 The capital investment opportunities range from potential housing developments, community projects, Belfast City Council capital projects (including those we are delivering

under Building Successful Communities), Department for Communities capital programmes and potential developments of the Invest NI site. Recent major investment in the area also includes the Innovation factory and E3 campus.

- 3.11 There are also opportunities to align programming work of both the council and partners in a more integrated way and contribute to key policy priorities for the city through this area planning approach such as employability and skills, health and wellbeing, community safety and others and start to shape how we do things better at an area level.

Fresh Start

- 3.12 Members will be aware that an Executive Action Plan on 'Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime' was published in July 2016. Recommendation (Action B4) states that:

The Executive should establish a fund to support ambitious initiatives aimed at building capacity in communities in transition, including through developing partnerships across civil society and across community divisions.

- 3.13 In order to progress this recommendation, it was decided to take an area based approach, with the following areas identified within Belfast:

- 1) New Lodge and Greater Ardoyne.
- 2) Lower Falls, Twinbrook, Poleglass, Upper Springfield, Turf Lodge and Ballymurphy.
- 3) Shankill (upper and lower, and includes the Woodvale).
- 4) The Mount (1) (2) and Ballymacarrett (2) and (3) in East Belfast.

- 3.14 Following a procurement process Co-operation Ireland have been appointed as a Strategic Partner to support the Executive Office (TEO) in the delivery of Action B4, and their role will be to develop Area Transition Plans in respect of each of the identified areas by the New Year.

- 3.15 TEO have made clear as part of the process that the Strategic Partner must engage and consult with Council in order to identify relevant priorities and ongoing work to ensure a co-ordinated and collaborative approach is taken.

- 3.16 Members will note that the areas identified at sub point 2 above fall within the Springfield Road corridor identified within the PEACE IV Shared Space theme. Early engagement

with the Strategic Partner has already taken place to explore and exploit potential synergies and opportunities to maximise outcomes through this area based approach.

- 3.17 With regards to these investment opportunities there are a number of significant links and potential synergies which could be brought together in terms of understanding the whole narrative of what can be achieved in this area through investment both physical and revenue.

Other Areas

- 3.18 We are aware that we need to develop our area planning approach across the city; further work will be required to develop this approach. There are opportunities to develop similar area planning approaches in other parts of the city. We request that further discussions on this approach take place with elected members through party group briefings and area working groups with regular updates coming back to SP&R.

3.19 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial: Council has already submitted a bid to SEUPB with regards to the delivery of the Belfast Action Plan, all delivery costs will be included in this bid. With regards to the development of an area plan, further work is required to develop this including any potential costs.

- 3.20 Staff: As outlined above staffing costs are included in the Peace IV action plan, further staff resources to work up any future area plans will be allocated from current resource with alignment to the development of our approach to area working

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Any future model on area planning will be screened for equality and good relations implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers over 350 projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This paper provides an update for Members on the Physical Programme

2.0 Recommendations

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

Communication and Engagement Activity – Physical Programme

- note the update in relation to recent and planned communication activities as outlined at 3.2 below

Belfast Investment Fund

- North AWG - approve the recommendation from the North AWG as laid out at 3.3 below in respect of their BIF allocation
- South AWG – *Stranmillis Gateway* – note that works are due to commence next month on the Stranmillis Gateway which will require the Council to enter into access agreements with adjoining Landowners. In order that construction is not delayed approval is sought to grant delegated authority to the Director of Property and Projects in conjunction with the Director of Legal Services to make arrangements and enter into any necessary Agreements to progress and complete the works (see 3.4)

Local Investment Fund

- note the recommendation of the South AWG in respect of the underspend of SLIF2-12- project (see 3.5) to be reconsidered for topping up some under-resourced projects subject to officer feedback.

Non-recurrent projects

- agree the two proposed projects (Relocation of 5 Belfast Bike Docking Stations and match funding for the RDP- Basic Services Measures for Hannahstown Community Association) as outlined at 3.6 below

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Physical Programme – Communication and engagement activity

3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme covering over 350 projects under a range of funding streams including the capital programme, BIF and LIF together with the projects that it is delivering on behalf of other agencies including the Executive Office and the Department for Communities.

3.2 A detailed overview of the recent and upcoming communication and engagement activities in respect of the physical programme is attached at Appendix 1 but Members are asked to note the following highlights

- Extensive media coverage of the official opening of the £40m Connswater Community Greenway
- the following LIF projects were officially opened – Palmerston Memory Garden (ELIF2-16 - £36,000); St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club (WLIF2-12- £25,000); Cavehill Bowling and Tennis Club (NLIF2-01 - £100,000); Solas (SLIF2-04 - ££100,000) and Gort Na Mona 3G pitch (WLIF2-05 -£140,000)

Members are asked to note that upcoming engagement and planned events in respect of projects under the physical programme

- LTP - Andersonstown and Robinson development (Oct 18th) – ‘Cutting the sod’ photo-call/social media etc. to mark works starting on site on the two new £45m leisure developments
- LTP - Stakeholder Engagement event (6th November – City Hall) – this is a meet and greet event for employability and local training providers providers to promote upcoming employment opportunities under the LTP and provide an insight into the skills and/or

qualifications required as well as the recruitment and selection process

- **BIF - Stranmillis Gateway – ‘Cutting the sod’ – (early Nov – date TBC) - photo-call etc. to mark works starting on the new £3.7m works at Stranmillis which will include the development of a navigation lock, an iconic foot and cycle bridge, the refurbishment of the existing weir and high quality landscaping with associated path connections**
- **Urban Villages – Lagmore Community Forum (Nov 16th) - Official opening of this new community facility – this new £370k facility was funded by Urban Initiatives and delivered by the Council**

Belfast Investment Fund

- 3.3 North AWG - The North AWG at its meeting on 27 September 2017, made the following recommendations for the consideration of SP&R in relation their BIF allocation. Members are asked to note that this project is being added as a Stage 1 – Emerging project and will be required to go through the Council’s agreed stage approval process**

Project	Stage	Notes
Hillview Boxing Club	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ring- fenced allocation of £400,000	To be considered in the context of facilities in the wider area including the Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre which the People & Communities Committee at its meeting on 10th October agreed would be brought back into Council ownership

- 3.4 South AWG – Stranmillis Gateway – As outlined in 3.2 above work is due to commence next month on the new £3.7m Stranmillis Gateway which has received £2.15m of funding under BIF. Members are asked to note that the awarding of this contract will require Council to enter into access agreements with adjoining Landowners to facilitate the works. These**

arrangements can only be made after the appointed contractor has met with Council Officers and the access requirements are finalised. In order that construction is not delayed approval is sought to grant delegated authority to the Director of Property and Projects in conjunction with the Director of Legal Services to make arrangements and enter into any necessary Agreements to progress and complete the works.

Local Investment Fund

- 3.5 South AWG - Members are asked to note that the South AWG at its meeting on 25th September made the following recommendations for the consideration of SP&R in respect of LIF

Project	LIF Allocation	Notes
GVRT (SLIF2-12) Blythefield	£20,000	£20,000 transferred back into the LIF2 fund and reallocated to other projects subject to officer feedback

Capital Financing – Non-recurrent projects

- 3.6 Members will recall that in March of this year they agreed that the unallocated capital financing budget would be ringfenced for projects which may arise through in 17/18 which required non-recurrent capital funding. Members are asked to note that a number of projects have been proposed which require non-recurrent capital funding and Members are asked to agree the two projects as outlined below

- *Belfast Bike Share Scheme – Proposed relocation of docking stations* – The City & Growth Committee at its meeting on 13th September agreed the relocation of a number of 5 under-performing bike docking stations (either due to low rentals and/or their close proximity to other sites) to enable a better deployment of the existing resources to increase usage and membership income without increasing the management cost. It was noted that this would cost up to £30,000 (approximately £6k per site). Members are asked to note that the 5 new sites have been picked due to high

levels of interest in these sites, requests from the public and Members feedback, areas of high footfall and that their natural fit with the wider network both in relation to the Belfast Bikes and the national Cycling Network. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee recommended that this was referred to the Strategic policy and Resources Committee (SP&R) given the capital implications. Members are asked to agree that £30,000 of non-recurrent monies are allocated to this relocation

- *Rural Development Programme* - match funding requirement of up to £16,666 from the Council to ensure that monies can be secured under the Rural Development Programme for the Basic Services Measure in support of Hannahstown Community Association. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 11th October, asked that this be referred to the SP&R Committee for consideration
- The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that these are within the affordability limits of the Council

Peace IV

- 3.7 Members will note that there is an update on Peace IV also on the agenda for discussion at today's Committee. One of the key aspects of the Council's Local Action Plan is the Shared Spaces theme which contains a substantial element of the capital works. Members will be aware that there is a tight timescale of respect of Peace IV and although the Council is not yet in receipt of a formal letter of offer it is recommended agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Peace IV capital projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver to ensure all projects can be delivered within the funding deadline.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The physical programme is worth approximately £325m

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

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Area Working Update

Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the South Area Working Group of 25th September; the North Area Working Group of 27th September; the West Area Working Group of 28th September; and the East Area Working Group of 5th October.

The Chairperson advised that an issue which had been raised by a Member concerning the accuracy of the minute of the East Area Working Group meeting of 5th October, in so far as it related to the provision of alleygates, could be raised again at the next Working Group meeting.

Social Innovation Challenge Programme

The Committee:

- Approved the recommendation that Charter NI receive £15,000 of funding from the Social Innovation Challenge Programme on behalf of the Diamond Residents Group for its Street by Street project; and
- Approved the recommendation that Upper Springfield Development Trust receive £30,000 of funding from the Social Innovation Challenge Programme on behalf of the Social Prescribing Programme (£15,000) and the Community Safety Intervention Programme (£15,000).

Asset Management: Grant of Licence to Clanmil Housing Association

The Committee approved the grant of a licence to Clanmil Housing Association for a builder's compound to be located at the Annadale Embankment which would incorporate an additional access to facilitate construction works.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (1) Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;

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- (2) Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by month extensions where contracts were under review; and
- (3) Agreed to apply Standing Order 55(a) Exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the Council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer – in that the exception was justified in special circumstances for the completion of capital works to space in the former Belfast Telegraph building on the basis that there was an extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable to the Council.

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Sponsorship for Belfast Bikes	Donal Durkin	3 years
Provision of Dog Kennelling facilities and related services	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with the option to renew annually for a further 3 years

Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary / Birthday Events

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider a request from Féile an Phobail for the Council to cash flow a proportion of the up-front costs of the 30th anniversary / birthday events in August 2018 which will be recouped by the Council from the direct payment of ticket sales by ticket selling agent ‘Ticketmaster’ to the Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- **Consider the proposal to cash flow the upfront costs of the Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary / Birthday events planned for August 2018 up to a cap of £300k which will be recouped through the direct receipt of ticket sales from Ticketmaster, subject to appropriate legal agreements and insurance arrangements being put in place.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Féile an Phobail will celebrate its 30th Anniversary / Birthday in 2018 and is planning to hold three major headline events in the open event space in Falls Park in August 2018.

3.2 Féile an Phobail has written to the Council (Appendix 1) seeking cash flow support from the Council to manage the up-front costs of the events, with the Council recouping the cash flow payments via ticket sales directly from Ticketmaster, the ticket selling agent for the events.

3.3 The main reason for the cash flow request is that artist confirmation and initial marketing and promotion costs have to be incurred before ticket sales and the receipt of ticket sales income commence.

3.4 Council officers have reviewed the income and expenditure projections for the events and discussed these with Féile an Phobail. Ticketmaster have also confirmed the legal and insurance arrangements which would be necessary in order for Ticketmaster to channel ticket sales payments directly to the Council.

3.5 On the basis of these discussions it is recommended that the Council's cash flow financing limit be set at £300,000. This cash flow limit, together with the profiled income streams, should ensure the matching of income and expenditure for the events.

3.6 Risks to the Council

There are two main risks to the Council with regard to the proposal:

- That the projected ticket sales do not meet the projected levels required to meet planned expenditure.
- That due to unforeseen circumstances, one or more of the events has to be cancelled and ticket sales have to be returned to Ticketmaster for refund to the public.

3.7 Risk Mitigation

Ticket Sales: Major events at the Féile have a history of being sell out concerts. However, in order to reduce the risk related to ticket sales, the financial models have been tested on 75% ticket sales levels and this projects that income levels would provide adequate cover for the projected fixed and marginal costs.

Event Cancellation: In order to mitigate the risk of ticket sales having to be refunded due to cancellation for unforeseen events, Féile and Phobail will be required to have in place adequate cancellation insurance.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

If Members agreed to the proposal, all ticket sales would be paid direct to the Council and then released to Féile an Phobail, with a Council's cash flow limit of £300,000 applying at any time. There will be no net cost to the Council as the cash advances will be recouped from Ticketmaster receipts.

3.8 The arrangements would be subject to establishing appropriate legal agreements between the Council, Ticketmaster and Féile an Phobail

3.9 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications with this report."

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Corr,

That the Committee agrees to accede to the request from Féile and Phobail for the Council to cash flow a proportion of the up-front costs of the 30th anniversary/birthday events in August 2018, which would be recouped by the Council from the direct payment of ticket sales by ticket selling agent "Ticketmaster" to the Council.

On a vote by show of hands seven members voted for the proposal and eleven against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Equality and Good Relations

**Shared City Partnership Meeting –
9th October 2017**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 9th October and agreed the following:

- To note the allocation of £102,594 to support 23 organisations to deliver good relations projects through the Good Relations Grant Aid Tranche 1 2017/18 which had been approved for funding under the delegated authority of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
- That, should underspend in excess of £20,000 be identified through the Good Relations Action Plan, it would be redirected to support eight additional projects through the Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants programme;
- The adoption of Option 3, that is, to seek expressions of interest from organisations to deliver a large scale event to mark the International Day of Peace

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as an interim arrangement for 2018/19, until the results of the review of the City festivals and events was available; and

- Due to the significance of the International Day of Peace, that it be prioritised within the context of the review.

Operational Issues

Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 12th October.

GNI Magazine Awards 2017

The Committee was advised that, following nomination by the public, the Council had been shortlisted as a finalist in the GNI Magazine awards in respect of the "LGBT Friendly facilitator" category and had been invited to attend this year's awards event which were scheduled to take place on the evening of 26th October in the Clayton Hotel, Belfast.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or her nominee) and two Council officers at the Awards ceremony.

Consultation Response to Health Trust Savings Proposals

The Committee noted the responses which had been submitted on behalf of the Council to both the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and South East Health and Social Care Trust consultation on Health Trust saving proposals.

Requests for 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 for the provision of hospitality as set out below:

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
2017 EVENTS						
World Merit	3rd November 2017	Launch event for World Merit - local charity education people of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Attending - 100	Yes A & D	No, Charity	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Conference Partners International	27th November 2017	Welcome Reception for 1 st European Congress on Personalised Medicine Welcome Reception – 4 day Conference. Attending 400-500	Yes A & B	£300, Commercial Company booking	Yes - Wine	Approve £300 Charge Wine Reception
Fellowship of Messines Association	8th November 2017	Panel led discussion event part of the 'Centenaries & Citizenship Conversations' program supported by BCC Good Relations. Attending 30-40	Yes D	No, Charity	Yes – TCB	Approve No Charge Tea, Coffee & Biscuits Reception
Saints Youth Club	5th December 2017	Celebration and awards ceremony for local young people. Attending 120	Yes D	No, Charity	Yes – Soft drinks	Approve No Charge Soft Drinks Reception
2018 EVENTS						

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
European Bridge League	3rd February 2018	Formal Dinner as part of Four day seminar at Europa Hotel Attending 100-120	Yes A & B	No, Charity	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
RICS	8th February 2018	One Day Conference BCC Officer involvement Outcome of conference linked to Belfast Agenda	Yes A	£115	Yes – TCB, some linkages to BCC agenda	Approve on once-in-three-years basis; £115 Charge Tea, Coffee, Biscuits
Institute of Directors	15th February 2018	Annual Dinner – Networking event for the business community – Reception and Dinner. Attending 400	Yes A & B	£825	Yes - Wine	Approve £825 Charge Wine Reception
Queens University; Institute of Physics	11th April 2018	Event part of the Institute of Physics, Plasma Physics Conference Drinks Reception followed by formal dinner. Speeches, prizes and entertainment to finish. Attending 90-110	Yes A & B	£300	Yes - Wine	Approve £300 Charge Wine Reception
International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA)	8th March 2018	Annual Debate, 2 day event of education and networking at Waterfront. Drinks Reception followed by dinner. Attending 50-100	Yes A & B	£300	Yes - Wine	Approve £300 Charge Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
Royal College of Nursing	12th May 2018	Royal College of Nursing Congress at Waterfront, Largest conference ever to be held in Belfast. This is a preconference welcome reception. Attending 500	Yes A & B	No, BCC & Visit Belfast Involvement	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Queens University	9th July 2018	Part of 3 day Oxzizymes Conference Welcome Reception followed by formal dinner. Attending 300	Yes A & B	£825	Yes - Wine	Approve £825 Charge Wine Reception
Belfast City Council; City & Neighbourhood Services - City of Belfast Rose Trials	20th July 2018	Annual Judges Reception and Luncheon with awards presentation. Attending 150	Yes A & B	No, BCC Event	Yes – wine on tables but not lunch as in previous years.	Approve No Charge Wine with Meal
Law Society of Northern Ireland	27th September 2018	Annual Dinner – Networking event for the legal community. Attending 200-300	Yes A & B	£825	Yes - Wine	Approve £825 Charge Wine Reception
Museums Association	6th November 2018	Networking Event – Welcoming delegates of the Museum Ass. Conference which is being held at the Waterfront. Attending 300-400	Yes A & B	No, Charity and Visit Belfast Involvement	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
2019 EVENTS						

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
Old Ashleighans Association	6th April 2019	Centenary Dinner - Past pupils of Ashleigh House School Attending 250-300	Yes C & D	No Voluntary PTA	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

Issues Raise in Advance by Members

Council Photograph - Alderman Browne to Raise

The Committee agreed that arrangements be made for taking a Council photograph and that this be undertaken during a Council meeting, with the meeting being adjourned for a short period to allow this to take place.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 10th October, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers, McCoubrey and McKee; and
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Corr Johnston, Copeland, Corr,
Garrett, Heading, Lyons, Magennis, McCabe, 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

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Armitage.

Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of 12th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd October.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation

Families Bereaved by Suicide – The Safer Campaign

The Chairperson advised the Members that representatives from the Safer Campaign were in attendance to present to the Committee on the right to timely and appropriate support for people bereaved by suicide. Mr. Bobby Duffin, Ms. Stephanie Green and Ms. Julie Magee were admitted to the meeting.

The Members viewed two shorts videos:

- the first detailed Mr Duffin's personal experience following the death of his daughter - the video link is available [here](#)
- the second portrayed the confusion that people/families often sensed in the immediate aftermath of a suicide – the video link is available [here](#)

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Ms Green commenced by thanking the Committee for the opportunity to present. She advised that S.A.F.E.R represented **Support Automatically For Everyone Referred**. The campaign group was made up from family members bereaved by suicide who wished to highlight the plight of people who were close to someone who had died by suicide. The representative explained that these people were an especially vulnerable group, research had shown that they could be up to three times more likely to attempt to take their own lives. She advised that proper post-bereavement support could be vital in improving mental health and helping to decrease the likelihood of further suicide.

Mr Duffy and Ms Green then proceeded to outline the context of the proposed changes that the Safer Campaign was seeking, as follows:

- an automatic referral for support – an automatic referral policy already existed but Safer was campaigning to change this from an ‘opt in’ system to an ‘opt out’ one as families were not ready to decide about support in the immediate aftermath of a suicide;
- a new automatic referral system – for those who had family members admitted to hospital following a suicide attempt and later died there. They highlighted that currently there was no pathway for support for these families; and
- a long-term goal of referral to the Coroner’s Office for bereavement support – this would be similar to a successful Australian model that provided sensitive, streamlined and effective responses.

The representatives answered a number of questions and highlighted the difficulties that they were having in progressing the proposed changes. Following discussion, the Committee suggested to the S.A.F.E.R Campaign representatives that they write to the Public Health Agency (PHA) seeking a meeting to discuss their proposals.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their invaluable work and they left the meeting.

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.

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

Request for the use of Jubilee Gardens

The Committee considered a request from Mr. Bill Wolsey of Cathedral Leisure Limited for the use of Jubilee Gardens, Victoria Street to host a series of events at the venue.

The Committee agreed that, due to the imminent date of the proposed events on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October, the decision taken would not be subject to the call-in process.

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The Committee further agreed to grant authority to Mr. Bill Wolsey of Cathedral Leisure Limited to hold the two proposed events on 27th and 28th October at Jubilee Gardens, on condition that:

1. Cathedral Leisure Limited resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
2. an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
3. Cathedral Leisure Limited meet all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licences; and
4. the organiser be advised that the two events are planned at his own risk and he should consider contingency arrangements should the Entertainment Licence applications not be granted in time for the event.

The Committee considered a further request seeking permission to hold an additional 13 events over the course of the next 12 months and agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a more detailed report on the events to be submitted to a future meeting.

Antisocial Behaviour Parks and Open Spaces

With the permission of the Chairperson, a Member raised an issue regarding antisocial behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces. As this item was not on the agenda for the meeting, it was agreed that a special meeting of the People and Communities Committee would be convened to consider the matter and that representatives from the PSNI would be invited to attend.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Stadia Community Benefits Initiative Update

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services stated that, as the Members would be aware, the Council had been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme had been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the Northern Ireland Executive Stadia Programme.

He reported that the Council, the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) had all recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme and had committed to work together to maximise these benefits. They had agreed to establish a Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative ('the Project') to implement and deliver agreed objectives, including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.

The Director advised the Committee that it had been agreed at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on the 25 April that the Council would enter into an agreement and allocate a fund of £100,000 to support the programme.

The Committee noted that the Council, DfC and IFA had all signed an agreement which set out their respective commitments to the project. The Director outlined that, as other major stadia were developed in Belfast, it was anticipated that other sports governing bodies would become parties to the agreement. The overarching purpose of the Agreement was to ensure

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that the public investment in regional stadia and surrounding areas improved both the quality of life now and for future generations, especially for those who were socially marginalised and excluded across the City.

The Members were advised that the agreement was for a period of ten years, with a financial commitment from the Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. They noted that to assist with the achievement of the project outcomes, a Sports Development Officer had been recruited within the Council structure and funded from the financial commitment. Delivery would be managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board which would report quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports would be presented to Council and other Partners' Boards as necessary.

The Committee was advised that a formal review of the agreement would be undertaken in years five and ten. In addition, the year one action plan had been agreed and featured 19 projects ranging from volunteer conferences to setting up new disability sections within existing clubs. Partners had developed co-ordinated project plans to maximise the impact of each action throughout the year.

The Committee noted the next priority for the Policy and Performance Board was the development of a detailed communications plan that would support partnership delivery. Successful delivery of the varied projects would require careful targeting of the correct target audiences through a range of media. This would be completed over the following quarter. Wider campaigns to increase awareness of the initiative would follow a launch event at Olympia Leisure Centre and the National Football Stadium.

The Committee noted the update provided.

Calorie Wise Scheme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 In N.I. approximately 60% of the population are overweight or obese. This has led to a significant increase in Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, certain cancers, high blood pressure and stroke. It has been estimated that overweight and obesity costs the Northern Ireland economy £370 million each year.**
- 1.2 Environmental Health Northern Ireland (consisting of Environmental Health Managers from all 11 Councils) has agreed to a proposal for a partnership initiative with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and District Councils in NI in respect of the Calorie Wise scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to encourage the voluntary display of Calories on menus in catering premises in Northern Ireland so customers can have the information they need to make healthier food choices.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree Council to support and participate in the scheme.

2.2 It is anticipated that officers will prioritise considering suitability in catering operations in Council's own premises and rolling out calorie wise where appropriate.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 The food we eat outside the home makes up an increasingly important part of our diet in Northern Ireland with one in every six meals eaten out of the home. Whilst calorie labelling in UK and Ireland is still in its infancy there is a demand for calorie labelling with 96% of consumers wanting calories displayed in restaurants (FSAI, 2012). The current research surrounding the provision of calorie information on restaurant menus indicates a complementary effect by way of encouraging a different choice of food together with an improved understanding of calories. Food businesses have a major role to play in terms of providing healthier choices, appropriate pricing and accurate calorie labelling of menus. However, it is clear that food businesses need encouragement at a local level to display calories on menus to achieve and fulfil the above objectives.

3.2 In 2012 FSANI piloted a scheme to display calorie information in small-medium sized catering businesses at the point where consumers choose what they want to eat. The independent evaluation of the pilot concluded that more support was needed for businesses to obtain calorie information and to provide healthier food items. Subsequently FSA developed and launched MenuCal in September 2015 a free online tool to help food businesses to manage allergen information and calculate the calories in the food they serve.

3.3 It is now proposed, with the support of Councils, to roll out the Calorie Wise scheme to encourage businesses to display calorie information clearly and prominently at the point of consumer choice i.e. on menus and/or menu boards, for standardised food and non-alcoholic drinks. Any restaurant, takeaway, café, pub, sandwich shop, staff restaurant or other outlet where people eat out, can join the scheme.

Calorie Wise aims to inform and enable people to make healthier choices more often when eating out, as well as encouraging food businesses to make healthier options more readily available.

- 3.4 EJNI and FSANI believe Calorie Wise will not only be good for consumers it will also help businesses as:**
- 1. It can help to standardise recipes which can reduce food waste and increase profits;**
 - 2. Current food trends all point towards a rise in consumer demand for healthier foods and products**
 - 3. Research has shown that 90% of people want calorie information in all or some food outlets**
- 3.5 Council support and participation in the scheme will involve significant and ongoing resources in officer time. Council officers are expected initially to hold workshops to promote the scheme. On an ongoing basis participating councils will be required to carry out one to one visits with the business to provide assistance with the use of the Menucal tool and progress towards the requirements of the scheme, carrying out assessment audits, reassessment audits every other year thereafter, and administering the awards. This will initially require approximately 0.5 FTE Food Safety Officers to provide the desired outcomes, including a minimum of 20 Food Businesses in Belfast displaying calorie information by March 2018. However it is anticipated that this will be funded within existing budget by reprioritising. An application has also been made to FSA for additional funding for the remainder of 17/18.**
- 3.6 To be considered for the award, the business must:**
- Complete accurate nutritional analysis of menu items to identify Kilojoule (Kj) and calorie content using a tool such as menucalni.co.uk**
 - Display energy information according to the following 4 principles:**
 - 1. Energy information is provided for ALL standard food and drink items sold**
 - 2. Energy information is displayed clearly and prominently at the 'point of choice' for the consumers**
 - 3. Energy information is provided per portion or per meal**
 - 4. Information on how many Kj and calories an average person needs in a day is given to help consumers 'make sense' of calories on menus**
 - The business must also display the award on the door of the business or nearby to inform customers that calorie information is provided and commit to reviewing the accuracy of energy information at least every 6 months.**
- 3.7 When the business is ready, it may apply to the Council for assessment, a verification audit will then be carried out by a Food**

Safety Officer before making an award. Revalidation inspections are required every two years.

Belfast Agenda

- 3.8 With 60% of our population overweight or obese it is clear that healthier food choices are essential if Belfast is to be a City “where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing”. Calorie Wise aims to help achieve that key outcome of the Belfast Agenda and to contribute towards a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between neighbourhoods.

NI Programme for Government

- 3.9 The FSA’s programme on Food Product Improvement which includes dietary health initiatives with catering including Calorie Wise was accepted and included in the delivery plan under outcome 4 “*we enjoy long, healthy, active lives*”.

NI Obesity Prevention Strategy

- 3.10 The Department of Health cross- government 10 year obesity prevention strategy for NI ‘A Fitter Future for All’ includes a commitment to the roll out of the Calorie Wise campaign across Northern Ireland and improved display of calorie content on menus through the promotion of the ‘Menucal’ calculator.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.11 This will initially require approximately 0.5 FTE Food Safety Officers to provide the desired outcomes, including a minimum of 20 Food Businesses in Belfast displaying calorie information by March 2018. This will be funded within existing budget by reprioritising and an application has been made to FSA for additional funding.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.12 None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Waste Update

The Director provided the Committee with an update in respect of the waste collection service which included a detailed update in respect of the following key areas:

- customer call handling and management interventions; and
- the waste collection improvement action plan.

The Committee noted the interventions that had been implemented in order to maintain the performance improvements of the waste collection service and also the progress made, to date, in delivering the waste collection improvement plan.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

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 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.

1.2 At Committee on 12 September 2017 this item was referred to the North Area Working Group (NAWG) for consideration.

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 further considered by the NAWG in the context of wider area needs as discussed at the NAWG meeting of 27 September 2017 taking into account other known facility needs such as Hillview Boxing Club.**
- **Members are asked to note that in this context it was agreed by the NAWG on 27 September 2017 that the Hillview Boxing Club proposal for Finlay Park be recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for support of £400k Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and that the Ardoyne Youth Pavilion be brought back into Council ownership for use.**

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.
- 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. The Company constructed the Youth Centre which 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. On completion of the building issues arose with regard to rental and the Lease did not complete, however, the Company 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 would not be interested in taking on the lease.
- 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** The NAWG considered this item at its meeting on 27 September 2017 in the context of facility needs in the wider area and other known needs such as the requirement of Hillview Boxing Club. In this context members of the NAWG agreed to support bringing the property into Council ownership and operational use and to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee funding of the Hillview Boxing Facility with £400k of BIF funding.

- 3.7 A further report will be brought to Committee in terms of condition and future use.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.8 Resource is required from Legal Services, Estates Management Unit and City and Neighbourhoods officers in connection with taking possession.

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.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Naming of Entrance at Olympia Drive

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the South Area Working Group held on 24th April, the Working Group had endorsed a request from the Blackstaff Community Development Association inviting the Council to name the entrance at the above-mentioned location in honour of the eminent local physicist John Stewart Bell. The Community Association had highlighted both Mr Bell’s links to that area and the lasting impact that he had made on modern physics.

The Committee noted that the pedestrian entrance at Olympia Drive was being enhanced with planting and resurfacing as part of Phase C of the Olympia Regeneration Project, this included a new pitch and play park along with a new tree lined boulevard leading to the Boucher Road.

The Committee approved the naming of the entrance from Olympia Drive to the Olympia Leisure Centre in honour of Mr. John Stewart Bell.

Renaming on Clonard Play Park

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 make members aware of a request from Clonard Residents Association to name a playground in Springfield Avenue in the Clonard Area Cluain Ard which is the Irish translation of Clonard.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- consider the request and, if in agreement with the proposal in principle, a consultation process will be undertaken.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The Council has received a request from the Clonard Residents Association asking that it consent to re-name the Springfield Ave Playground located in the Clonard area, to Cluain Ard Playground which is the Irish form for Clonard. A copy of the request is attached as Appendix 1.**
- 3.2 The Association points out that the name reflects the status of Clonard as part of the Gaeltacht Quarter, and remains consistent with the history and geography of the area. The Association points out that the area has always been known as “Clonard” and has since the late 1890s been dominated with the Monastery as its focal point, having started life as a tin church within the grounds of Clonard House.**
- 3.3 The existing Playground, which has recently been completed to include a floodlit MUGA, is a valuable community resource and offers recreational opportunities for children and young people in an area with few leisure alternatives.**
- 3.4 The Committee is asked to consider the naming of the playground as Cluain Ard to reflect the wider area and to provide continued support to the development of the Gaeltacht Quarter.**
- 3.5 There is currently no overarching policy context either supporting or against the proposed naming. Members will be aware that the Council has adopted a linguistic diversity/ language policy which was recently consulted upon. In general terms the policy supports the use, and promotion, of minority languages which must be balanced with, as the consultation responses made clear, the principle of shared space.**
- 3.6 The playground is located within the Gaeltacht Quarter. The Linguistic Diversity policy contains a recommendation to revisit the current dual language street naming policy insofar as it relates to the designated Gaeltacht area. This received no adverse commentary in the consultation responses. The policy on linguistic diversity which was approved by Council in May 2017 and which was subject to consultation supports the proposition on the use of**

Irish in the context of it being seen primarily by users of Irish and this relates to signage, buildings and other related contexts.

3.7 The current policy relating to naming of facilities requires consultation to be undertaken.

3.8 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Cost for any new signage required will be covered from existing budgets.

3.9 **Equality and good relations implications**

The draft Linguistic Diversity Policy which went out for consultation was screened for equality and good relations impacts.

Appropriate consideration in the context of equality will be given to the consultation response in relation to this particular proposal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Partner Agreements - Quarterly Update

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

She explained that, in line with the Council’s objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and she advised that so far the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites. She drew the Members’ attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by the partners up to the end of June 2017.

The Assistant Director advised that there was still a number of outstanding payments in respect of quarters one and two for a small number of the Partners but confirmed that officers were working through the issues with the relevant Partners.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Belfast Transport Hub – Land Transfer

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 seek the Committee’s approval to licence and transfer various plots of Council owned land to the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHCO). This is to

facilitate rail infrastructure improvements as part of the Belfast Transport Hub project.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- Grant licences on lands shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix 1. These lands will be used as builders compounds for the duration of the works.
- Transfer the land as shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix 2 to NITHCO to facilitate the construction of a third railway line.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Translink and the Department for Infrastructure have been working in conjunction with the Strategic Investment Board to create an integrated Public Transport Hub as a Gateway to Belfast.

3.2 This is a £175 million investment project involving the redevelopment of the Europa Bus Centre, Great Victoria Street railway station and adjoining lands held by NITHCO. Public consultation was conducted during November 2016 and a planning application submitted in June 2017.

3.3 Site investigation and enabling works are due to commence this month. Construction of the Hub is expected to commence mid 2018 and complete by late 2020.

3.4 To facilitate construction works, NITHCO has identified two sites in Council ownership which are required as builders compounds for the duration of the works – see Appendix 1. These plots adjoin the railway line at Blythfield Park and comprise:

- 1. Plot A - Open Space and a BHX track to the north of the railway line. The plot will be fenced and secured to a standard acceptable to the Council and on licence termination, the lands will be reinstated by NITHCO in accordance with a landscaping agreement to be drafted by the Council following consultation with the local community.**
- 2. Plot B – Open Space and allotments to the south of the railway line.**

- 3.5 The local City Parks Manager has consulted the allotment tenants of which only one is directly affected and he has agreed to be relocated to an adjoining vacant allotment. Access will be unaffected by the construction of a compound and on licence termination the open space will be reinstated in accordance with a Landscaping Agreement to be drafted by the Council.
- 3.6 It is proposed that these plots be licenced to NITHCO for periods of between one and three years.
- 3.7 The project requires the introduction of a third railway line between Great Victoria Street and Central stations. This necessitates the acquisition of lands alongside the existing tracks and NITHCO has identified a plot of land in Council ownership for acquisition – See appendix 2 - Plot A.
- 3.8 NITHCO has requested the transfer of a small plot of land on the southern side of the existing footbridge linking Blythefield Park to Bentham Drive. See Appendix 2 – Plot B. This is to facilitate improvements to the footbridge which is to be extended and strengthened.
- 3.9 It is proposed that Land & Property Services (LPS) shall be jointly appointed to assess values on behalf of NITHCO and Belfast City Council. LPS will assess licence fees and transfer considerations and a report will be brought to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders.
- 3.10 NITHCO has undertaken to carry out improvement works to those areas used as builders' compounds. The design and specification of the improvement works are to be carried out in consultation with and subject to approval by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services. Details of Accommodation works are yet to be agreed with C&NS.
- NITHCO has agreed to pay the Council's legal costs on an 'open book' basis.
- 3.11 Time is of the essence in this major high profile project as preliminary construction works are due to commence later this month. It is essential that the legal process progresses without delay if site compounds are to be set up and fenced in preparation for construction works commencing in mid 2018.
- 3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Legal Services section will prepare the necessary legal documentation on the instructions of Estates Management.

3.13 Equality & Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

Petanque Installation at Ormeau Park

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that there was an area adjacent to the Indoor Tennis/Ozone Leisure Centre in the Ormeau Park that was currently laid out as a community garden. She reported that this area was no longer used and was now overgrown and unsightly and was scheduled to be refurbished/tidied within the existing parks maintenance programme.

The officer advised that, following recent discussion with the Northern Ireland Pentanque Association, the area had been identified as an ideal location on which to site 3 -4 dedicated 'Petanque Pistes'. She provided a brief background on Petanque (which was more commonly known as French Boules) and advised that the sport in Northern Ireland had ambitious plans which would be substantially enhanced by this development. In addition, such a development would greatly improve the aesthetic appearance of the leisure facility and carpark.

The Committee was advised that a maximum of £5,000 had been allocated to the project and that the scheme would be funded from the existing 2017/18 budget, with a scheduled completion of December 2017.

The Committee noted the update provided in respect of the installation of a Petanque as part of the scheduled refurbishment at Ormeau Park.

Request for the use of Lower Crescent - Festive Focal

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from a number of business owners seeking permission to host new event called Focal Festival. This would be a three-day open air festival held in Lower Crescent open space that would showcase new businesses in the Northern Ireland food, drink and entertainment industry.

It was pointed out that there would be a charge for entrance to this event.

The Committee agreed to grant authority for Focal Festival to hold an event on 21st, 22nd and 23rd December in Lower Crescent Open Space, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that:

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

Request for the use of Dr John Pitt Memorial Park

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received for the use of Dr John Pitt Memorial Park to hold a Battle of the Somme commemoration and she outlined the details of the request.

The Committee approved the Row on Row events at Dr John Pitt Memorial Park from Thursday 2nd November to Friday 17th November, subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plan and the following terms being satisfactorily agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services:

- all operational issues are resolved with the event organisers to the Council's satisfaction;
- the event organisers meet all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover and Health and Safety responsibilities; and
- the event organisers agree to consult with the adjoining public bodies and local communities as required.

Fairy Trail at Woodvale Park

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from the Greater Shankill Partnership, seeking permission to install a Fairy Trail at the Woodvale Park. She detailed that it was intended that this would be a permanent feature in the park and would consist of hand carved fairy houses and features that would be securely fixed to trees in the park. These would form a trail in the park which could be followed via an educational booklet. The booklet would be available in the Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road and would include a map, information and competitions. The trail would be modelled on a similar fairy trail at Galgorm Castle and would consist of 10 features, with the final layout to be agreed by Belfast City Council.

The Committee approved the installation of a fairy trail as a permanent feature in Woodvale Park and agreed that a charge of £2.00 could be levied for a booklet/map that allowed users to maximize use of the trail.

The approval was on condition that:

- the Greater Shankill Partnership and the Spectrum Centre meet all statutory requirements, including Health and Safety responsibilities and Public Liability Insurance cover;
- the installation and maintenance requirements were approved by Belfast City Council and subject to an agreed business plan to support income generation to assure the sustainability of the facility.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Wednesday, 18th October, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers; and
Councillors Armitage, Austin, Beattie, Copeland, Corr,
Garrett, Heading, Magennis, Newton and McReynolds.

Also attended: Alderman Spence and Councillor Attwood.

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 Councillors Nicholl and Milne.

Antisocial Behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Superintendent Murdie, Kathy Latcham, Senior Crime Prevention Officer, and Dan Kelly, Neighbourhood Inspector for West Belfast, representing Belfast City PSNI.

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Further to discussion at the People and Communities Committee meeting on 10 October 2017 on anti-social behaviour taking place in parks and open spaces in Belfast, the purpose of this report is to update Members on:

1.2

- The anti-social behaviour context in parks and open spaces across the city
- The ongoing work in response to these issues
- The planned work to improve the response to these issues

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to consider the contents of the report.

- 2.2 Members are also asked to note the progress to date and endorse the future work planned to address these issues more effectively.
- 3.0 **The Anti-Social Behaviour Context**
- 3.1 **Background**
- 3.2 Members will be aware that anti-social behaviour remains an issue of concern for communities in Belfast.
- 3.3 Anti-social behaviour is defined as ‘acting in a manner that has caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator’.
- 3.4 Anti-social behaviour in Belfast has increased by just over 5% comparing the April – August 2016 and April – August 2017 period.
- 3.5 However, this is lower than the Northern Ireland average which is a 7% increase in the same period.
- 3.6 Members will be very aware that anti-social behaviour can have seriously negative impacts on the quality of life of individuals, families and communities.
- 3.7 **Anti-Social Behaviour in Parks/Open Spaces**
- 3.8 Members will recall previous reports to People and Communities Committee (most recently in November 2016) updating Members on increasing concern about anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces across the city.
- 3.9 Members will also recall that anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces has been a significant focus for Council resources (both staff and financial) in recent years.
- 3.10 An additional concern in respect of parks and open spaces is the growth of a large group of young people who are transient in nature (anything from 50 – 150 young people at a time), who move across parks and open spaces in the city. This group can be under the influence of alcohol and drugs and are often determined to remain detached from existing structured youth provision in their own communities.
- 3.11 Members should be aware that many of the negative behaviours taking place in parks/open spaces are not anti-social behaviour, but are criminal in nature and often serious.

- 3.12 Anti-social behaviour is often under reported by members of the public and this can be particularly relevant in relation to anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces.
- 3.13 However, anti-social behaviour is sometimes witnessed by Council Officers in parks/open spaces and often there is physical evidence of the anti-social behaviour.
- 3.14 Anti-social behaviour affects most parks/open spaces at difference times in a sporadic way, but there are a number of parks/open spaces that are subject to persistent anti-social behaviour.
- 3.15 Reported Anti-Social Behaviour
- 3.16 A review of reports from members of the public to Council regarding anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces along with anti-social behaviour witnessed by Council Officers has identified the following parks/open spaces as having issues with persistent anti-social behaviour.
- 3.17 Please note figures provided below are for the current financial year to date. Please also note that the list below only represents the parks/open spaces with the highest numbers of reports of anti-social behaviour. Reports of anti-social behaviour are received for other parks/open spaces across the city but at a much lower level.

3.18

Park/Open Space	Area	Reported Ant-Social Behaviour Incidents
Woodvale	North	41
Grove Playing Fields	North	25
Cavehill	North	23
North Queen Street Playground	North	15

3.19 Repairs at Parks/Open Spaces

- 3.20 As indicated above, anti-social behaviour is often reported. Officers have therefore reviewed requisitions for repairs at parks/open spaces as a result of vandalism, criminal damage or arson. The list below provides details on those parks/open spaces with the most repairs needed (in descending order of cost of repairs for this financial year with highest costs at the top) along with an assessment of the frequency of issues (based on requisitions for repairs):

**Special People and Communities Committee,
Wednesday, 18th October, 2017**

3.21

Park/Open Space	Area	Reason Repairs Needed	Frequency
Musgrave Park	South	Arson/Criminal Damage	Unpredictable
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West	Arson/Criminal Damage/Burglary	Persistent
Marrowbone	North	Criminal Damage	Persistent
White Rise	West	Criminal Damage	Persistent
Dunville	West	Arson	Unpredictable
Sally Gardens	West	Criminal Damage	Unpredictable
Ligoniel	North	Criminal Damage	Unpredictable
Lenadoon	West	Arson	Unpredictable
Whiterock	West	Criminal Damage	Unpredictable

3.22 Member Feedback

3.23 Elected Members engage regularly with Officers articulating concerns about anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces. Officers have reviewed their Elected Members contact on this issue and the following parks/open spaces present most frequently as of concern:

3.24

Park/Open Space	Area
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West
Marrowbone	North
Lagan Walkway	South/East
Orangefield	East
White Rise	West
Girdwood	North
Dunmurry Halt	West
Grove Playing Fields	North

3.25 Serious Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminality

3.26 Two of the parks/open spaces detailed above are affected by serious anti-social behaviour and criminality (as opposed to lower level anti-social behaviour). They are Falls Park/City Cemetery and Marrowbone Park.

3.27 A small number of other parks/open spaces are less affected by anti-social behaviour but more affected by criminality. These are Botanic Park, Ormeau Park and Lagan Meadows.

3.28 PSNI will attend the meeting to update Members on the parks/open spaces most affected by serious anti-social behaviour and crime as reported directly to them.

3.29 The ongoing work in response to these issues

3.30 'One Council' Approach

3.31 Further to reports considered by Committee previously collaborative work between Parks, Community Safety and (D)PCSP (Policing and Community Safety Partnership) teams has been ongoing. Additionally, with those teams now being within the City and Neighbourhood Services Department the effectiveness of a 'one Council' response to anti-social behaviour is improving. Ongoing work includes:

- Joint planning and ongoing 'one Council' front line responses to community safety issues in all parks and open spaces detailed above.
- Fortnightly operational planning meetings to monitor ongoing concerns and allocate responses
- Joint visible reassurance patrols of Council Officers and when required PSNI
- Proactive visits to off licenses around parks/open spaces to give advice and guidance on consequences of selling alcohol to minors
- Ongoing delivery of programming to support positive and legitimate use of the parks/open spaces
- Delivery of positive diversionary activities in partnership with (D)PCSP's
- Partnerships developed with local youth providers and (D)PCSP supported detached youth work to address anti-social behaviour in priority parks/open spaces
- Council and (D)PCSP investment in community infrastructure around parks and open spaces to encourage participation and sustainability
- Ongoing delivery of proactive work on social media and through schools to promote parental responsibility as well as reinforcing the expectation that young people using the parks/open spaces should do so in a responsible manner
- Joint procurement and deployment of mobile/redeployable CCTV solutions

- 3.32 The planned work to improve the response to these issues**
- 3.33** Members will be aware that resolving anti-social behaviour is complex and requires the input of a range of statutory, community and voluntary partners.
- 3.34** Council is committed to playing its part and it is recognised that significant effort has gone in to developing the ‘one Council’ and partnership approach to addressing anti-social behaviour across the city. However, challenges remain in improving the effectiveness of our efforts to address these issues. The remaining challenges have informed the focus of our business improvement going forward. They are:
- 3.35 Operational Demand v Availability of Resource**
- 3.36** It is recognised there is significant demand from across the city for Council to provide a front line and operational response to address anti-social behaviour. Members will be aware however, that the available citywide Council front line resource currently stands at:
- 7 Safer Neighbourhood Officers (SNO’s) whose main focus is working at community level to address low level anti-social behaviour. The working patterns of SNO’s are Mon – Thurs 2pm – 10pm (7 SNO’s), Fri/Sat 4.30pm – Midnight (3/4 SNO’s)
 - 24 Park Wardens with part focus of job on addressing community safety issues within parks. Park Wardens work a shift pattern providing cover throughout the day from morning to park closing. For the autumn/winter period this means that Park Wardens are not available from within their normal shift pattern for evening work.
 - 20 casual Alcohol Enforcement Officers (AEO’s) who can be deployed to support SNO’s and Park Wardens at key dates and events, but this carries an additional financial cost.
- 3.37** Operational demand for front line Council resource, even only within parks/open space, exceeds the core available resource at present (Park Wardens and SNO’s). Evidence of need (both recorded incidents and anecdotal input from Elected Members and communities) informs the areas of focus and this is subject to ongoing update.

3.38 Business Improvement

- Explore the short term opportunities for flexible working between SNO's and Park Wardens to meet the citywide demand at evenings and weekends.
- Additional deployment of Alcohol Enforcement Officers to support SNO's and Park Wardens at weekends and during school holidays

3.39 Council Role v PSNI Role

3.40 Partnership working between Council and PSNI in providing front line services to tackle anti-social behaviour is intrinsic to how both organisations work. Joint Council and PSNI operations are taking place most weekends and school holidays particularly focussed on parks/open spaces.

3.41 Core to successful joint working is clarity on the individual roles and responsibilities of each organisation. For example:

- The remit of SNO's, Park Wardens and Alcohol Enforcement Officers (AEO's) is specified in their job descriptions are dealing with low level noise, nuisance or anti-social behaviour where it is safe to do so
- SNO's, Park Wardens and AEO's are not recruited for or trained to deal with more serious nuisance or anti-social behaviour
- These Officers do not have any supplementary powers (as PSNI do) should an individual be obstructive.
- The remit of PSNI is to address more serious nuisance or anti-social behaviour, criminality and public order situations.

3.42 Members should note that there have been a number of health and safety incidents where Safer Neighbourhood Officers, Parks Wardens or AEO's have inadvertently found themselves presented with more serious anti-social or criminality. This has resulted in Officers having missiles thrown directly at them and their vehicles and weapons drawn at them. Public order consideration present themselves frequently when large groups of young people are involved often under the influence of drugs and alcohol and Officers are frequently subjected to verbal abuse.

3.43 Business Improvement

- Guidance to be provided to Elected Members and Communities on roles and responsibilities of Council and PSNI
- More joint operational planning between Council and PSNI to reduce duplication of and maximise efforts
- Further exploration of how to maximise the Council roles in supporting this work as part of the City and Neighbourhoods Department Change Programme

3.44 CCTV Options

3.45 CCTV can be a useful tool; however, as a standalone resource it is not effective in dealing with and addressing crime and anti-social behaviour.

3.46 Mobile/Redeployable CCTV and Body Worn Cameras are now available for use by Council, and PSNI can deploy Evidence Gathering Teams (EGT) when the evidence of need is established.

3.47 CCTV solutions are being used on an ongoing basis at weekends and school holidays and any evidence of offences gathered is being passed to PSNI for action.

3.48 Business Improvement

- Continued provision of Council procured mobile/redeployable CCTV solutions and PSNI Evidence Gathering Teams (EGT) in hot spot areas and at high risk times
- Continued use of Body Worn Cameras for Council Officers in hot spot areas at high risk times

3.49 Role of Education Authority and other Youth Providers

3.50 Crime and anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces can often be driven by alcohol and drug use among young people. The young people in question are often transient in nature and move in large groups between parks and open spaces and are largely detached from more structured youth provision.

3.51 Most youth providers (including the Education Authority) will not work directly with a young person under the influence of alcohol or drugs and this presents a challenge in respect of meaningful engagement with this group with a view to meeting their needs and changing their negative behaviours.

3.52 Business Improvement

- A review of the specific needs of this group of young people by Belfast PCSP (detached, transient and sometimes under the influence of alcohol/drugs) has identified the need to establish Youth Provider Networks in each part of the city to improve communication, reduce duplication and improve effectiveness. A Youth Provider Network is already well established in East Belfast, with the network in West Belfast in development. Further networks will be developed as needed by District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.
- The Education Authority is in the process of establishing Local Advisory Groups (LAG's) to inform the future of youth provision in the city. Council Officers will participate in these groups with a view to influencing the Education Authority to improve how they meet the needs of this specific group of young people as well as the needs of young people generally.

3.53 Legislative Review

- 3.54** Further to Council's consideration of a Notice of Motion expressing concern about the effectiveness of legislation and bye-laws designed to tackle on street drinking, Council requested that the Department of Justice and Department for Communities commence a review of the effectiveness of the existing legal framework. This review should also consider additional powers which could complement or enhance those currently available in Northern Ireland. That review is underway with the proactive support of Council Officers.

3.55 Business Improvement

- Ongoing delivery of the review of the effectiveness of existing legislation and bye-laws and report back to Committee on recommendations
- Meantime exploration of how far the parameters of existing legislation and bye-laws can be used to alleviate the issue

3.56 Focussed Area Based Approaches

- 3.57** Taking in to account Member concern and the serious level of anti-social behaviour/criminality taking place in and around Falls Park/City Cemetery and Marrowbone Park the following is proposed:

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- **A focussed area based approach should be the agreed way forward fully integrating the contributions of all relevant partners (Council, other statutory agencies and community/voluntary partners)**
- **The learning from the locality pilots would be incorporated to improve effectiveness**
- **The approach would be holistic in nature recognising the complexity of the issue**
- **Opportunities for physical and social regeneration to support effectiveness would be included**
- **Opportunities to improve wider education, health and employment outcomes in the areas would be included**
- **The risk of displacement of the issues would be minimised as potential for displacement to other parks/open spaces in the area would be taken in to account**
- **An agreed and integrated action plan would be developed for each area identifying accountable lead partners and resources needed**
- **Regular reporting on the plans would take place through the relevant Area Working Groups.”**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the principle aspects of the report. He stated that vandalism and antisocial behaviour was a citywide problem which was an ongoing concern for both the Council and the PSNI. He advised that there had been a 5.8% increase throughout the City in incidents of antisocial behaviour and he drew the Members' attention to the specific trends that had been identified.

The Director advised that it would be pointless to try and target individual areas and not the wider problem, he added that as many of the incidents involved criminality the Council's response was often limited. He continued that, whilst officers recognised the importance of the Council working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to attempt to improve the overall response to the weekly antisocial behaviour incidents, there was also ongoing inter-agency planning in advance of other challenging events/periods, for example, St Patricks Day, Freshers Week and Halloween. The Director also advised that reviewing the effectiveness of the existing bye-laws and legislation was an ongoing piece of work but added that introducing new legislation was not straight forward.

At this stage in proceedings Superintendent Murdie addressed the Committee. He commenced by providing the Committee with a detailed breakdown of the various statistics in incidents of antisocial behaviour and stated that this was to give the Committee some perspective in regard to the level of incidents across the City. He highlighted that antisocial behaviour was a citywide problem but there was, at present, particular issues in the south of the City. He concurred with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services that a co-ordinated Council and PSNI approach would be

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essential to try and tackle the many issues and he welcomed the important role that the Council played.

The Police Officer specifically referred to the joint PSNI and Council operations that took place most weekends and during school holidays to try and tackle issues of antisocial behaviour. He advised that crime and anti-social behaviour in the parks/open spaces was often driven by alcohol and drug use amongst young people. The young people in question were often transient in nature and moved in large groups between parks and open spaces, this was fuelled with the use of social media. He stated that the PSNI, whilst trying to address these incidents, was also trying to be proactive in its approach, explaining that it was keen not to criminalise young people.

Superintendent Murdie concluded by advising that the Police would continue to monitor reports of antisocial behaviour and respond appropriately. This would include focusing patrols in certain areas at particular times. He continued that, in order to address the problem long-term, a collective strategic approach would be required. This would not just require the PSNI and the Council coming together but liaison would also be required with all the statutory agencies but particularly the Education Authority to establish what youth services and community provision could be made available for the City's young people.

A Member requested clarification in respect of the figures presented for west Belfast and expressed concern that the statistics did not reflect accurately the extent of antisocial activity which had occurred in this area. The Member also suggested that the method of capturing the number of incidents within these areas might be re-assessed and that additional staffing resources in the form of park attendants could be made available to address the matter.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which the representatives answered a number of questions and highlighted the following key issues:

- the need for statutory authorities to work together and also to establish if better youth provision could be made available;
- young people using social media to organise meetings in Belfast that escalated to incidents of anti-social behaviour and disturbances;
- specific discussion in relation to the ongoing vandalism of the Fall Park/City Cemetery;
- the previous use of park attendants in Dunville Park and whether this model could be replicated;
- the responsibility of parents and guardians to know the whereabouts of their children;
- the effect a criminal record could have on young people in terms of travel, education and employment opportunities in the future;
- the need to review the existing bye-law legislation to enable the seizure of alcohol;
- the cost of vandalism to the Council in repairing/replacing park equipment;
- many parks becoming 'no go zones' and whether the better animation of these spaces would encourage greater 'normal usage';
- the financial and resource constraints of the Council and the PSNI;
- the Education Authority cut backs that had affected youth service provision and the lack of a sitting Northern Ireland Assembly to address these issues;

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- the installation of additional CCTV and lighting, though it was suggested that the cost could be prohibitive; and
- noted that the Active Communities report was being progressed through the Area Working Groups.

Following consideration, the Committee:

- agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would consider the implementation of additional preventative measures to the Council's Parks, including the feasibility of staffing resources. The report would include projected expenditure, resource requirements and detail clearly any financial impact on the Council's existing budgets;
- agreed that an antisocial behavioural update report, which would include details in respect of incidents and any associated costs, be submitted to the People and Communities Committee on quarterly basis;
- noted that consideration would be given at the various Area Working Groups as to how the parks and open spaces could be better animated which might help act as deterrent to vandalism; and
- agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing clarification around the raising of items at a meeting.

Retirement of Councillor Austin

It was reported that this would be Councillor Austin's last meeting as she would be retiring from the Council in the near future.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Members, thanked Councillor Austin for her contribution to the work of the People and Communities Committee during her time on the Council and wished her well in her retirement.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending and the meeting concluded.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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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 Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian,
Dudgeon, Hargey, Howard, Johnston,
Kyle, Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown,
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd October.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Hara declared an interest in Item 8a, Rural Development Programme – Basic Services Measure, in that she was a Council nominee on the Local Action Group for Hannahstown, which drew down funding for regeneration projects. Councillor O'Hara left the room for the duration of the Item.

Request to film proceedings

(Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer, attended in connection with this Item)

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the BBC to film part of the proceedings of the meeting, in relation to Item 6d, St. Patrick's Day.

The City Solicitor advised the Members that the usual convention was to permit filming at the Council meetings, but not Committee meetings. He advised the Members that, while Committee meetings were now open to the public and audio recorded, they provided a forum which allowed Members to have open and informed discussion and he advised that the Committee decline the request.

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

Resolved - That the Committee rejects the request from the BBC to film part of the proceedings of the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to allow the BBC to film the meeting for a short period before it commenced to use as a background shot for a news item.

Matters referred back from Council

Notice of Motion – Traffic in the City Centre

(Ms. A. Doherty, Planning and Transport Officer, attended in connection with this item)

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

“This Council has grave concerns about traffic congestion in the City centre, particularly at the back of City Hall, resulting from recent new arrangements. A major source of the problem at peak times is the prohibition on vehicles (except buses and emergency services) going from Donegall Square East into Adelaide Street from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

This means that cars must either go into Chichester Street, turn right into Montgomery Street, then right into May Street and left into Adelaide Street, or use Donegall Square East, then Donegall Square South and Bedford Street to go in an eastern or south-eastern direction. There is no other reasonable way for vehicles to go from the west or south west of the City to the south and east, despite the description of the route as a rat run.

Cars accessing Adelaide Street between June, 2015 and August, 2016 were caught by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) camera in Donegall Square East on 18,000 occasions, resulting in £1 million of fines. This proves the difficulty faced by drivers and especially visitors to the City.

The Council, therefore, calls on DfI, working in conjunction with Translink, to end the prohibition on traffic entering Adelaide Street from Donegall Square East. This would also enable the removal of the large and unsightly electronic warning sign in Donegall Square East and free up the traffic island on which it sits.”

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After discussion, the Committee:

1. endorsed the wording of the Motion and agreed that a letter be sent to the Department for Infrastructure requesting that the proposals therein be put into effect; and
2. agreed that the letter would extend an invitation to representatives from the Department for Infrastructure to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the issues with traffic in the city centre and to clarify the Department's reasons for the current traffic arrangements.

Presentations

EastSide Arts

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its meeting on 9th August, to invite EastSide Arts and Féile an Phobail to present to a future meeting.

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. M. Kinkead, Chief Executive of EastSide Partnership, and Ms. R. Kennedy, EastSide Arts Manager, were in attendance to provide an overview of the EastSide Arts festival and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr Kinkead provided the Committee with an overview of EastSide Arts, which, he explained, was an integral part of EastSide Partnership, and he outlined a number of the activities which it had been involved in since it was established in 2012, including:

- the delivery of six annual arts festivals;
- the delivery of five C. S. Lewis festivals;
- five Woodstock R&B Festivals and dozens of emerging artists;
- seven Van Morrison shows; and
- over 100 year-round arts events.

He explained to the Committee that, since 2012, the work of the organisation had been carried out without any organisational financial support from the Council. He clarified that, while EastSide Arts had received programme support from the Council, and additional non-recurrent support in 2015, this financial assistance did not permit it to plan a structure to deliver or organise the programmes, and that this was challenging.

However, he advised the Committee that the Council was an important partner to EastSide Arts and that he hoped that in the future they could better work together.

The Members were advised that EastSide Arts had a six-year plan for 2018-2023, with key areas for development. He outlined that this included the growth of the C. S. Lewis Festival and the development of the Woodstock R&B Festival, to ensure their international relevance, and the development of the EastSide Arts Festival and the public hub of C.S. Lewis Square in conjunction with the Council.

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During discussion, a number of Members commended the work of EastSide Arts and of the EastSide Partnership, particularly in relation to the success of the C.S. Lewis Square, which had become a vibrant, shared space for all age groups and social backgrounds to socialise in the inner east of the city.

In relation to the engagement which had taken place with local schools, the Arts Manager confirmed to the Committee that competitions were run, as part of the C. S. Lewis Festival, and that continued partnership with EastSide Learning was an important part of community engagement.

In response to a Member's question regarding the potential of organising diversionary activities for young people during the first two weeks of July, Mr. Kinhead acknowledged that it was difficult with only 2 full time staff members but that it had remained focussed in its belief that the arts were for everyone and were, in his opinion, the most important driver for the city.

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

Féile an Phobail 2018

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. K. Gamble, Director of Féile an Phobail, and Mr. H. Connolly, Fáilte Feirste Thiar, were in attendance to provide an overview of the plans for the festival in 2018 and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Gamble explained to the Members that 2018 would mark the 30th anniversary of Féile an Phobail. The Committee was advised that the festival had been established in 1988 in response to the conflict, in order to celebrate the rich culture and community of West Belfast and its love for the arts, sport and language. He explained that it was now Ireland's biggest community arts festival, attracting over 80,000 people annually to events throughout the year.

He stated that Féile an Phobail played a leadership role in the arts and culture within the city, by bringing communities together through the arts, attracting visitor spend and showcasing the city. He stated that Féile had led a cultural programme and had worked with arts and cultural groups, schools and youth groups across the city when the World Police and Fire Games had taken place in Belfast in 2013. He outlined that Féile continued to work alongside EastSide Arts, ArtsEkta, the Duncairn Centre for Arts and Culture and the Spectrum Centre.

In relation to the 30th anniversary of the festival, Mr Gamble outlined details and explained that it would be a community celebration of global culture over three festivals, one in March, August and October. He described to the Members that they would continue the comprehensive volunteer programme, the marketing programme and that it would commission specific pieces of work to reflect and celebrate 30 years of arts, culture and community through Féile an Phobail. He also pointed out that hospitality was at the core of the festival.

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The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and Mr. Connolly retired from the meeting.

Feile re: St. Patrick's Day Consultation

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. K. Gamble, Director of Féile an Phobail, and Mr. R. Crowe, Copius Consulting, were in attendance to provide the Members with a summary of the consultation which had been carried out in relation to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Belfast, and they were admitted to the meeting.

In response to a Member's question, the Chairperson clarified that the title on the agenda, namely "Fáilte Feirste Thiar", had been incorrect and that the presentation was in fact from Féile an Phobail and Copius Consulting.

Mr. Gamble explained that Féile an Phobail had been allocated Council funding in order to carry out work on the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the city and to look at how the city could encourage visitors to stay in the city for longer periods. He explained that Féile had commissioned Copius Consulting to carry out research as part of this work.

Mr. Crowe provided the Committee with an overview of the quantitative and qualitative findings from the consultation, which included participants who had and who had not attended the St. Patrick's Day events in Belfast in the past three years. He also advised that businesses had been consulted about the events.

The Members were advised of the following key qualitative findings:

- the city should be making a greater effort for the festivities for the week leading up to St. Patrick's Day while encouraging the greater Belfast area to get involved in the parades;
- the city centre and parade should be more festive for the events, including global greening, street bunting and more street entertainment;
- the event(s) should last longer than just the parade and concert, a day of celebrations;
- more emphasis on community involvement with the parade;
- better policing and management of underage drinkers and anti-social behaviour; and
- more activities for children, similar to Culture Night.

Mr. Crowe described the successful activities which were held annually in Dublin, Downpatrick and New York to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and explained that Belfast should learn from those as examples of Best Practice. He stated that the natural next step for Belfast would be the creation of a Partnership approach to the celebrations, where resources could be shared amongst key partners, such as financial, human, skills, venues and equipment.

A number of Members stated that it was promising to hear new and creative ideas around the city's St. Patrick's Day celebrations and that Belfast should seek to attract many more tourists to the city for the celebrations. Other Members suggested that there

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was a lack of cross-community participation in the events and that they had some concerns in relation to the proposed “greening” of Belfast. The point was also made that activities to engage those aged 15 – 17 should be a priority, particularly in relation to the anti-social behaviour which had taken place in the Holylands area of the city.

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

After discussion, the Committee noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting to include the full report on St. Patrick’s Day which had been commissioned by the Council.

Restricted Items

The Information contained in the following two 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.

(Councillor Dudgeon, Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair.)

Former Belfast Telegraph Building

(Mr. J. Collier, Development Manager, City Centre Development Team, attended in connection with this item.)

The Development Manger provided the Committee with information on the range of interim uses which had been agreed for the former Belfast Telegraph site in advance of its redevelopment by Bel Tel LLP, the Council’s joint venture with McAleer & Rushe. He provided the Members with details of a nine-month licence with Limelight Belfast Ltd to occupy and manage a section of the ground floor of the site in the non-listed part of the building.

The Committee was also advised of a second temporary let which had been agreed, to Digital Catapult Northern Ireland, for the use of 4,500sqft of the first floor extension of the building. The Development Manger explained that it was for a project sponsored by the Department for the Economy which promoted pioneering immersive technologies.

A number of Members expressed concern in relation to how the application for an Entertainments Licence, regarding the interim use of the space, had been dealt with, and sought confirmation from officers that a similar situation would not occur again.

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During discussion, the Development Manager confirmed to the Members that Bel Tel LLP was the landlord and that the Council's role, as part of Bel Tel LLP, was distinct from its statutory function.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the contents of the report and the success of Bel Tel LLP in:
 - having secured an occupier for a large portion of the ground floor of the non-listed building, for use as an entertainments venue; and
 - having agreed terms for the use of 4,500sqft of the first floor extension of the building by Digital Catapult Northern Ireland, a project sponsored by the Department for the Economy that promoted pioneering immersive technologies.

(Councillor O'Donnell, Chairperson, in the Chair.)

Zoo Update

(Mrs. J. Wilson, Business Manager, City and Neighbourhoods, attended in connection with this item)

The Business Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the recent visit to the Exploris Aquarium, Portaferry, which a number of members had participated in. She outlined that five Councillors from the Ards and North Down Borough Council, along with their Chief Executive, had also attended to inform the Belfast delegation of their involvement in the change to the operating arrangements of the Aquarium.

She explained to the Members that the procurement of a contract to undertake a feasibility exercise was underway, whereby the successful company would be required to present to the Committee in the New Year on the preferred cost benefit analysis of each option, with a clear rationale and a critical path of how each could be achieved.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Request to Present to Committee

FCB Studios – Inner North and West Masterplan

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Members with an update on the work which was ongoing on the Inner North and West Masterplan and sought the Committee's approval for a presentation by the consultancy team, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, at a future meeting.

A Member requested an update on the western part of the City Centre. The Director of City Centre Development advised that an overall Masterplanning strategy

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was to be agreed initially, which would then allow short, medium and long term plans for areas to be identified.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. that a Workshop on the Inner North and West Masterplan be held, with the date to be determined with the Chairperson; and
2. to receive a presentation of the draft Masterplan in December, to allow Members' consideration ahead of public consultation.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

MIPIM 2018

The Director of City Centre Development advised the Members that an event management consultant for the Belfast delegation to MIPIM 2018 had been procured over the summer and appointed in September. She also explained that a working group had been established to help steer the development of the programme.

She highlighted to the Members that the 4-day conference involved a concentrated programme of events, meetings and engagements which allowed the delegation to present Belfast as a City ready for investment. She explained that four days at MIPIM, based on the 2017 schedule, would include the following:

- 20 speaking engagements involving 40 high profile speakers from the city and beyond;
- joint events with other cities from across the UK and Europe;
- an intense schedule of investor and developer meetings as well as support to the Belfast delegation at development meetings each day;
- working and networking breakfast, lunch and/or dinner engagements;
- on and off-stand presentations to identified potential city investors and funders; and
- continuous media interviews and social media slots.

The Director of City Centre Development explained that the private sector delegates which financially supported Belfast at MIPIM expected support from the Council's Elected Members and senior officers to ensure that the City's potential was showcased and articulated at every opportunity. The Committee was advised that a strong team presence from Belfast City Council was therefore required.

She emphasised that the delegation was seeking to raise the investment profile of the City at MIPIM 2018 and, as a result, she expected that the programme would be even more demanding than in previous years.

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The Committee agreed the attendance, at MIPM 2018, of:

1. the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominees; and
2. a number of senior officers who were needed to promote Belfast through the delivery of presentations, support media releases, target investors, present regeneration schemes and the economic growth profile.

South by Southwest Update

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 planned activities as part of Council’s support for the business mission to South by Southwest (SXSW) in partnership with Invest NI, Generator NI and Digital Catapult**
- **Agree Member and Officer representation at the event, to support the programme of activity.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree the outlined programme of activity for SXSW 2018 in partnership with Generator NI, Invest NI and Digital Catapult. The budget for this was previously approved at City Growth and Regeneration Committee in April 2017 as part of the programme of support aimed at ‘Creative and Tech Profile and Development’.**
- **Agree, given the increased profile of activity, that the Lord Mayor or Chair of Committee along with two officers to manage operational arrangements attend the event**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that, at the April 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, approval was given to support a programme of activity supporting the development and growth of the creative, digital and tech sectors in the City. This support is profiled and supported under the banner of ‘Output Belfast’. It encompasses a broader programme of work supported by our key partners including Invest Northern Ireland, Generator NI and Digital Catapult.

- 3.2** While this report concentrates on SXSW, the Council has also engaged in other activities including supporting participation by local companies in events such as The Great Escape in Brighton (May 2017), AVA Output Belfast Conference (June 2017) and the Output Belfast Conference (Feb 2017). The Council's support in these areas has levered investment of £70,000 from Invest NI towards a music entrepreneurship programme as well as support to converge music with screen industries in order to develop new export opportunities. This collaborative approach is creating a more strategic sectoral approach to supporting businesses in this sector and maximising the return on investment for all partners.
- 3.3** The City's interactive and convergence sectors will continue to grow over the coming years and the Council is working with its partners to ensure that local businesses are well placed to take advantage of these opportunities. This work will include the development of the Immersive Tech Hub at the former Belfast Telegraph building which was recently approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.4** A flagship calendar event for Output Belfast is South by Southwest (SXSW). SXSW takes place in Austin, Texas each year and is seen as the premier global event focusing on the creative industries through conference keynotes, networking events and conference exhibition. By day, the 15,000+ conference registrants do business in the SXSW Trade Show in the Austin Convention Centre and partake of a full agenda of industry-specific panel discussions featuring hundreds of speakers of international stature. SXSW remains the key US showcasing, deal striking, networking and media forum for the international creative digital industry. Attendance is typically by those in the business of film, music, technology and creativity.
- 3.5** Five local businesses were supported by the Council to take part in the event last year. Some of the key outcomes include:
- Sales of £185k identified;
 - One company establishing links with Sony Playstation, Mattel group and Spotify;
 - One company now developing creative audio visual product as part of SXSW 2018;
 - One company established links with Amazon Prime to identify new workflow patterns to help secure ongoing work for a second season of a hit Amazon Prime TV show;

- One company collaborating with Kieron Pepper (The Prodigy) now ACM regarding working together on a programme to help students develop stronger visual brands.
 - One company established a relationship with High Snobiety magazine for provision of video content (2million Facebook followers).
- 3.6 The dates for SXSW are the 9–18 March 2018. Taking account of the key dates within the programme, it is proposed that the Output Belfast activity and engagement will be 12-16 March.
- 3.7 Belfast City Council presence at SXSW in 2018 will have the dual purpose of showcasing Belfast talent and providing capability support to business participants. It will also present an opportunity to profile Belfast as a dynamic, creative City that is a magnet for talent and innovation. We are aiming to increase the city profile at the event in 2018. We will invest in specialist support to help Belfast-based businesses to maximise the opportunities presented at the event and we will host a number of showcasing and networking events with the aim of profiling Belfast to the international marketplace in terms of investment, skills, technology and innovation.
- 3.8 For SXSW 2018, the Council will work in partnership with Invest NI, Generator NI, Digital Catapult and the Department of International Trade (DIT) as well as other international trade partners. Through our contribution to the business mission, Belfast City Council will support the attendance of six local companies. We will also deliver the following:
- Facilitated one to one networking events, demo days and pitching events for participating digital companies;
 - Engagement and participation as part of the DIT exhibition stand in the main convention centre (details currently being finalised with DIT);
 - 5 days of music showcasing and business networking in the UK Music embassy;
 - 1 ‘Output Belfast’ networking and profiling event to promote Belfast as an investment location and to provide participating Belfast companies the opportunity to invite and network with key international buyers and companies. This event has grown year on year. At SXSW it was unfortunate that we had to turn delegates away from the event as it was over-subscribed so this year the event will be increased to accommodate up to 250 attendees;
 - An ‘Output Belfast’ music showcase and networking event with a focus on promoting the music industry in

Belfast and supporting the participating bands and musicians. This event will be delivered in partnership with DIT. Whilst this is primarily a music event, it provides a unique opportunity for businesses to network with 500 SXSW delegates and identify immersive and convergence opportunities;

- A Belfast city showcase and networking event to promote Belfast as an investment location and to provide participating Belfast companies with the opportunity to invite and network with key international buyers. This will be an invitation-only networking event targeting up to 100 key influencers. The invitation list will include civic stakeholders and partners/associates from the City of Austin, our Sister Cities of Nashville and Boston and key industry contacts. The event will showcase the vibrancy and innovation in Belfast, exemplified through our Smart Belfast approach. The City of Austin has agreed to help us prospect the right clients to network with our businesses and showcase the potential of the city as a dynamic business and investment location;**
- A potential business pitching event at Capital Factory, Austin for the 6 local businesses supported by Council to attend SXSW;**
- Participation on the business panel as part of the ‘Cities Summit’ during the conference programme (awaiting final confirmation). This panel will be in partnership with the City of Austin and key Belfast and Austin based creative digital companies;**

3.9 In the run-up to the event, we will work with the six participating businesses to provide them with the necessary support to maximise the impact of their time in Austin. This will include prospecting for SXSW, sales skills development, pitch and marketing support, development of specific itineraries, development of an export plan and follow-up support and coaching following the event. As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week (13 – 19 November) there will be a pitching competition with a prize of enhanced support for attendance at SXSW 2018, mentor support and a year’s free membership of Innovation Factory. This is included within the 6 Belfast-based businesses supported.

3.10 Invest NI and Generator NI will support participating companies and a select number of artists again in 2018 by providing up to 50% of the travel, accommodation and conference pass costs. As referenced above, Belfast City Council will contribute to the cost for up to 6 Belfast-based creative and digital companies that will benefit from

participation in SXSW. The companies supported would not meet the criteria for benefitting from Invest NI support. It is anticipated that the NI delegation will consist of up to 20 local creative digital companies and 4 musicians selected to showcase. Given the volume of activity – as well as the potential profiling opportunities – it is proposed that the Lord Mayor or Chair of Committee attend along with two officers to look after operational arrangements.

3.11 Equality and Good Relations Implications

Belfast City Council will select the six participating companies who will be in receipt of Council support. As part of the application process, equality and good relations will be considered. Recruitment of participants will be sector-based and targeted at the industries best suited to SXSW.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

The overall cost of delivering the programme detailed above is in the region of £40,000 and is met from the existing Economic Development Budgets. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee in April 2017 approved an overall budget for Creative and Tech sector profile and development, supporting export and international trade and business incentivisation.”

During a discussion on Members’ participation in Committee-related events and study visits, a Member raised concerns that the Independent Members had been excluded from participating on the upcoming City Centre Living trip to London, as the Committee had agreed the attendance of one representative from each of the six main parties. A Member pointed out that this had resulted in some Members which were not on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee attending the visit.

A further Member acknowledged the issue and stated that flexibility should be exercised by the Committee in determining the nomination of Members for future events and trips, with each event being dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. the outlined programme of activity for SXSW 2018 in partnership with Generator NI, Invest NI and Digital Catapult. The budget for this having previously been approved;
2. that the Chairperson of the Committee, or her nominee, and two officers, to manage operational arrangements, would attend the event; and
3. that consideration would be given to the independent Members of the Committee when agreeing the future attendance of Members on Committee visits.

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BBC Music Events

(Mr. G. Copeland, City Events Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The City Events Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 9th August, it had agreed to provide funding for the following three BBC music events which were planned to take place across Belfast in 2018:

- BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Belfast Waterfront, 4th April;
- BBC 'The Biggest Weekend' Music Festival happening across the UK in four different locations. Northern Ireland's location would be Belfast Titanic Slipways and would happen across two days between 25th and 28th May, with potential for other fringe activity. The core of the Belfast activity would be the BBC Six Music Festival; and
- BBC Proms in the Park, Titanic Slipways, 8th September.

He provided the Members with an overview of each of the events. The Committee was reminded that it had specifically requested that officers engage with the BBC on how the events could assist the Council in relation to its Employability and Skills priorities, as outlined within the Belfast Agenda and Employability and Skills Framework.

The Committee was advised that the Council would coordinate with the BBC in relation to the following programmes of activity which were being delivered by the Council:

- **Employer Engagement Initiatives** - which aimed to create better connections between employers and local schools. This initiative could be utilised by the BBC to create linkages to provide a number of meaningful work experience opportunities which could be targeted towards local schools and/or individuals who may be unemployed. For this to be effective, Officers would need to confirm with the BBC the following: the number of work placement opportunities they can provide; the expected duration of work placements; the timing of placement opportunities and the operational areas of work experience opportunities;
- **Digital Skills Programme:** a new initiative being launched by the Council, working with local schools to develop the digital skills of teachers and students. Officers would look at opportunities for the BBC to add value to this new initiative through the provision of careers/educational resources or volunteering of BBC staff at workshops etc; and
- **The Princes Trust Get Started Programme:** the Council would be supporting the delivery of a Get Started Digital Skills programme targeting young people (aged 18-30 years old) who were disengaged from mainstream support. The participants would engage in a week-long programme of intensive activity and would have access to three months of follow up support to help them positively progress into training and/or employment. Again, Officers would work with the BBC to engage through the delivery of

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the one week programme or providing work experience opportunities for young people.

The Manager highlighted to the Committee that there were also plans for Industry Insight events which would be targeted at young people citywide. He advised the Members that the above mentioned programmes were an outline as to how the Council would work with the BBC in the Employability and Skills area, taking into account the BBC's operational capacity, timings, insurance liability and any legal issues, where the final programme would form a contractual agreement as part of the Council's funding of the 2018 projects.

In addition, the Manager highlighted to the Members that the BBC would extensively promote all three projects across all of its multi-media platforms, nationally and internationally, and pointed out that the value of this promotion could be in excess of £11million, based on Glasgow City Council's joint staging of BBC Six Music in 2017.

He advised the Members that the three events would also help to raise the profile of Belfast in the lead up to the European Capital of Culture 2023 decisions.

The Manager explained that the budget had already been agreed by the Committee, as part of next year's normal events unit budget. The Committee noted that the BBC would also operate a ticketing fee, but that the cost structure would be based on a socially accessible ticketing price and would offer value for money.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

St. Patrick's Day

(Mr. G. Copeland, City Events Manager, and Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This paper is to seek approval from Members in regard to proposed operational changes to the 2018 St Patrick's Day celebrations. This item was raised at September's Committee meeting and deferred to this month.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Agree that the Council amends its operations for the 2018 St Patrick's Day (Saturday 17 March) celebrations to a parade-only event and not to stage a concert in Custom House Square.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** As Members are aware, the issue of health and safety is an ongoing and a changing dynamic. Across the Council, Officers continually work to ensure the safety of the public, staff and contractors when staging BCC's events programme. This involves a continual review of arrangements, whether the event is a one-off, an annual or multi-annual project. As part of this review process, Members are being asked to endorse changes to the St Patrick's Day Celebrations. These changes are designed to increase the robustness of health and safety plans attached to the event.
- 3.2** Members are being asked to endorse the removal of the concert element of the Council's annual St Patrick's Day festivities – the day normally involves both a concert and a parade. Over the last eleven years, both events have been staged to mark the Bank Holiday, with a city centre audience in excess of 20,000. However, the capacity to host the concert, at Custom House Square, has become an issue of concern in the last number of years. The key is the number of people trying to access the concert site after the parade, with significant congestion and safety issues at the intersection of High Street, Victoria Street and Queen's Square/Custom House Square. It is expected that the level of congestion will increase significantly given that the 2018 event will be staged on a Saturday. In addition to this, it is notable that after the initial influx, audience numbers tend to fluctuate, particularly depending on the weather. Therefore, for 2018, and subject to the Council's Events and Festival strategic review, Officers are seeking approval to expand the parade element of St Patrick's Day. This would involve a larger procession which would assemble in Custom House Square and then follow a city centre route which would traverse through the main retail district and return to Custom House Square. To enable this to happen it would mean there would be no concert on the day. Recent surveys by Belfast City Council indicate that the best way to improve the St Patrick's Day event would be the upscaling of the parade.
- 3.3** Therefore, given that St Patrick's Day, in 2018, will be delivered by Belfast City Council on a Saturday, there is a unique opportunity to attract a wider, representative audience to the event by growing the parade and carnival aspect of the day. This would involve an increase in spend to provide additional workshops, performers, props and expenses to allow more groups to participate from across the community. Any expenditure on this aspect would be found within the existing event budget. Plus, if permission is given, to rethink the

musical element of the event, by moving away from a mainstream concert at Custom House Square, and instead look towards 'pop up' musical and street performance to be staged within Belfast city centre in areas such as Writers Square, Bank Square, Corn Market, St Anne's Square and Cotton Court. The time frame for the event activities would also be increased to run from 11:00 to 17:00, contributing to a more festival feel throughout the city for the day. Such changes would adhere to suggestions from Belfast City Centre Management and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

- 3.4 Overall, it is envisaged that these changes would assist in reducing significant health and safety concerns that now pose a major risk to the public, contractors and Council staff during the St Patrick's Day events. However, additional health and safety elements may be required due to ongoing reviews connected to overall security in public spaces in the light of recent terror attacks. Any arrangements would be introduced and conducted in conjunction with PSNI and would be subject to ongoing analysis.

3.5 Equality & Good Relations Implications

As with all major public facing cultural projects, the above events have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city and across Northern Ireland.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

It is envisaged that there will be limited additional costs connected to the proposed amendments. Any changes would be subject to input from PSNI and the Department for Infrastructure (Roads). However, Officers would be hopeful that any cost implications would be found within the Development Department's City Events Unit budget for 2017-18."

A number of Members asked for clarification on the health and safety concerns which had been cited within the report.

The City Events Manager explained to the Members that the concerns had arisen because the celebrations for Saint Patrick's Day 2018 were due to take place on a Saturday, which would likely mean an increased numbers of attendees. He also explained that there were concerns in relation to crowd control, specifically in the area where the parade would meet the concert.

A number of Members pointed out that the Council's City Events Team had a history of staging numerous large and successful ticketed events.

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During discussion, the City Events Manager and the Building Control Manager confirmed to the Committee that officers could alter the time of the concert and/or the start and finish locations for the parade in order to mitigate the health and safety risks.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to hold a concert in Custom House Square and a parade for the 2018 St Patrick's Day celebrations in the City, on Saturday 17th March;
2. agreed that officers could alter the time of the concert and/or the start and finish locations for the parade in order to manage the health and safety concerns which had been raised; and
3. agreed that a further report would only be submitted for the Committee's consideration if any issues remained.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Innovation Factory Performance Review – Year 2 Action Plan

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 the outcome of the Year One (2016/17) Annual Performance Review (APR) of the Innovation Factory Operator contract and set out the high level targets for the year Two Action Plan
- Note a proposed amendment to the contract, which will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the outcome of the Innovation Factory operator contract Annual Performance Review 2016/17 and performance against year one targets;
- Note a proposed amendment to the contract, which will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval;
- Note the Key Performance Indicators set within the Year 2 Annual Service Plan which have been incorporated into a business plan for delivery and are aligned to the original tender submission by Oxford Innovation.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Innovation Factory (IF) is located at Forthriver Business Park and offers Grade A-standard workspace for small businesses. The building is 55,000 sq. ft. in total; this includes 32,240 sq. ft. lettable space and 5,133 sq. ft. innovation space. It is the first development on the wider 14 acre business park site which was previously the site of James Mackie and Sons Engineering Works. This IF project was part-funded by Belfast City Council, Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland.

3.2 The Centre will accommodate 382 workstations across 111 business units when at full capacity. It will support at least 145 jobs by December 2018 and 187 by December 2020. It will provide support annually to over 100 businesses and create 5 collaborative networks. It will promote and encourage social and economic regeneration, encourage local and foreign direct investment and act as a catalyst for further development of Forthriver Business Park. Belfast City Council accepted hand-over of the Centre from the contractor on 18th April 2016. Oxford Innovation Limited was appointed as the Operator of the Centre via a Competitive Dialogue procurement process. The Service Contract with Oxford Innovation came into effect on 1 June 2016. The contract is for an initial term of 5 years with the possibility of extension for a further three periods of three years, subject to performance.

3.3 In April 2017, the Council conducted the first Annual Performance Review (APR) of the operator contract. Given that this was the first time that the review was conducted, there were lessons learned on both sides in terms of the process and issues such as supporting information required. The timeframe for the sign-off of the document was extended by mutual agreement. This meant that an extended timescale was subsequently agreed for the finalisation of the Year 2 Annual Service Plan in order to ensure that the plan incorporated learning from the Year 1 Performance Review.

3.4 Annual Performance Review June 2016 – March 2017

The Annual Performance Review 2016/17 was undertaken by the Council's Economic Development Unit with input from the wider Council multi-disciplinary team and professional advisors KPMG. The review monitors and assesses the Service Provider's performance in Year 1 (to 31 March 2017) in

respect of annual targets and performance standards detailed within the contract.

- 3.5** The contract was designed to ensure that the Service Provider was incentivised to maintain a very high standard of service delivery across all Key Performance Indicators within each category. There are four categories, namely Service Performance, Financial Performance, Outputs and Outcomes. The contract therefore reflects the importance of the project to the Council, the economic benefits it provides and the ongoing requirement to meet funding targets.
- 3.6** Contract performance in Year 1 was deemed to be satisfactory in three of the four categories assessed, with some areas of weakness identified in the 'Service Performance' category. In some instances, there were mitigating factors to explain areas of weaker performance. Despite some concerns having been brought to light in this review, the Council is confident that the Service Provider is able and committed to quickly address and resolve any issues which have been identified.
- 3.7** The key issues highlighted in the review relate to:
- Timeliness and accuracy of reporting relating mainly to uploading compliance documents to the shared document system within agreed timeframes; and
 - Inability to meet some targets included in the Year 1 Social Integration and Community Engagement Plan. While there was a significant volume of community engagement activity undertaken, the limited pool of tenants in the first few months of opening meant that it was difficult to deliver on some of the community benefit clauses.
- 3.8** The commercial aspects of the Centre are performing well within a relatively short period of time. Average occupancy within the first six months of opening was 10% (3,571 sq ft) and actual occupancy at the end of March 2017 was 3,989 sq ft. The Service Provider performed well in a number of areas despite significant time pressures and a demanding mobilisation plan. This is reflected in the tenant survey which resulted in 93% of tenants saying they were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service provision and 98% of centre users (meeting rooms and conferencing) 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with facilities and associated services provided. Recruitment of staff was an efficient process and the calibre, productivity and cohesiveness of the team is testament to the recruitment process adopted by the Service Provider and commitment demonstrated by each of the staff. This included engagement

with local training organisations to provide work placement opportunities. A number of these work placements have now been employed as permanent members of staff.

- 3.9 The Centre's 'Buy Local' ethos has resulted in 56% of £232K spend taking place in Belfast and these local suppliers have been paid within an average of nine days.
- 3.10 Some of the Business Growth and Innovation Programmes delivered at the Centre were more successful than others and this learning has been built into the programme of activity for the year 2 plan.
- 3.11 The Payment Mechanism by which the financial settlement to the contractor is reached is based on them meeting or exceeding targets across the four categories (Service Performance; Financial Performance; Outputs and Outcomes). Given that performance was deemed to be satisfactory across three of the four categories with minor concerns in one of the areas (Service Performance), a deduction of 10% was made from the Year One fee payable to the operator. This was in line with the contract stipulations.
- 3.12 The relevant teams within Belfast City Council and Oxford Innovation are fully committed to working in continued partnership to ensure that the project delivers to the benefit of both parties.
- 3.13 Proposed legal amendment

In the course of the Annual Performance Review process, the Service Provider's representative raised an issue with one particular element of the contract, namely schedule 6, part 2 clause 5.2.2:

'The Council's representative shall award the Service Providers a score between 1 and 5 in respect of each of the four categories of Key Performance Indicators (namely service performance, financial performance, outputs and outcomes), based on the scoring mechanism set out in the following table and the measures set out in the following table and the measures set out for each of the Key Performance Indicators in Annex 3 to this schedule. The score awarded shall be the highest score for which the performance of the Service Provider meets or exceeds the stated measure in respect of every one of the Key Performance Indicators (based on the evidence available to the Council).'

3.14 At present, each of the four categories has a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). For example, the KPIs for the 'Service Performance' category include Compliance with Council Requirements; Customer Satisfaction – tenancies; Customer Satisfaction – Business Growth and Business Innovation Services and Complaints. If the Service Provider falls short in any aspect of the KPI statements, this is reflected in the score for the category as a whole. Oxford Innovation felt that this condition didn't fully reflect the breadth of the activity undertaken. Following engagement with the Council's Legal Services Team and our contract advisors KPMG, a revised clause has been developed that meets the requirements of both parties. This revision also provides the Council with a mechanism to prioritise certain elements of the contract i.e. those linked to ERDF funding targets and areas that would pose a higher risk to the Council e.g. Health & Safety considerations. The change means that scores can be assessed more broadly rather than being dictated by the lowest scoring factor. The revised contract clauses will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for authorisation.

3.15 Updated Year 2 Annual Service Plan April 2017 – March 2018

As mentioned above, the Year 2 Annual Service Plan (April 2017 – March 2018) has been updated to incorporate key lessons learned from the year 1 Annual Performance Review. This report summarises updated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the coming financial year. Members should note that the next Business Plan (beginning April 2018) will be for a three-year period. It was agreed that year 1 and 2 would each be for a one-year period, due to this being a period of transition and in order to ensure that learning was being picked up and implemented on a regular basis.

3.16 Some of the headline indicators for the Year 2 Annual Service Plan include:

- Occupancy forecast to be 24% of available space by year end, in line with projections. Note that this is scheduled to increase to 43% in year 3; 76% in year 4 and 85% in year 5. 85% is defined as full occupancy to allow for churn and growth of tenants within the Centre;
- Number of jobs at the Centre set to increase from 46 to 107 in the course of the year;
- Business Support programmes to focus increasingly on innovation support, in line with customer feedback;

- Additional events to encourage networking and collaboration to take place on a quarterly basis.
- 3.17 In addition to the economic focus of the Centre, social regeneration is a key element of the work programme at the Innovation Factory. The Annual Performance Review 2016-2017 identified that, while there was a significant volume of activity and engagement, it was difficult to quantify the deliverables. As a result, the following amendments have now been made to the year 2 plan:
- The Community Engagement Officer will focus activity on a number of priority tasks including skills development, work placement provision and establishing a 'buy local' supply chain platform. Tenant engagement in social regeneration activities will also be a priority for 2017-2018 as the occupancy in the Centre increases.
 - A small budget has been allocated to the Community Engagement activities to allow new and innovative projects to be developed. The Community Engagement Officer will also work closely with the Council's Community Services and Economic Development teams to capitalise on other engagement activity with local young people in order to build skills, promote positive role models and encourage entrepreneurship.
- 3.18 In partnership with Invest Northern Ireland, Oxford Innovation have developed a soft landing, 'plug and play' option at Innovation Factory. This is aimed at attracting investment companies who want to mobilise quickly in the location and who may use this as a base from which to explore the viability of a larger presence in Belfast. By locating the space at this Centre, there are also opportunities to encourage potential collaborations with Centre tenants and to build local supply chains.
- 3.19 In order to ensure that this service is able to respond to client needs, it is proposed that the Director of Development – as the Senior Responsible Officer for this project – has delegated authority to grant access to the suite for relevant users, against a set of pre-agreed criteria. Any financial incentive would be agreed in collaboration with Invest Northern Ireland. This will be tabled to a future meeting of SP&R Committee for approval.
- 3.20 The updated business plan KPIs for Business Support and Social Regeneration activities to the period ending March 2018 are available on modern.gov.

3.21 Financial & Resource Implications

- **Annual Performance Review 2016-2017**

A 10% reduction has been applied to the annual management fee due for 2016/17 in line with the contract Payment Mechanism.

- **Revised Annual Service Plan 2017-2018**

The Year 2 business plan has been prepared in accordance with the financial model submitted as part of the original tender submission for the management of the Centre. These projections were taken account of in the Economic Development revenue estimates for the 2017/18 financial year. Income and expenditure aligned with occupancy and usage are consistent with the original submission.

3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Innovation Factory Project has been equality screened and the Social Regeneration Activities detailed within the Year 2 Annual Service plan will further develop equality and good relations impacts of the Centre.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report and also agreed that:

1. the Girls’ and Boys’ Model Schools should be included in the schools’ engagement programme; and
2. there should be more extensive marketing of the facilities and services available at the Innovation Factory.

Newham Council Visit – Update

The Committee considered a report which provided a summary of key learning points from the recent visit by the Deputy Lord Mayor and two senior officers from Newham Borough Council, on 21st September, 2017.

The Director of Development advised the Members that the purpose of the presentation was to enable Belfast City Council to learn from the success of Newham Borough Council’s “Workplace” project and how it could help shape future Council and partner support and investment in Belfast, particularly in the context of the commitments to Growing the Economy and Working and Learning in the Belfast Agenda.

Newham Council had advised the Members that ‘Newham Workplace’ had been established in 2007, in light of numerous development opportunities in the borough, in order to provide a focus and investment in employment support services in order to ensure

that local people would be given the opportunity to avail of new employment opportunities as they arose.

The Members had been advised that the Workplace Programme had developed over the past ten years and that it currently comprised in excess of 120 staff and operated with an annual budget of around £6million. The Director advised the Members that the programme assisted an average of 3,500 people into work each year across a range of job areas at all skills levels.

The Committee noted that a report would be submitted to its next meeting, setting out the range of current employability support provided by, or resourced by, the Council, as well as an outline of the proposed way forward in line with the Belfast Agenda commitments and the City Deal proposals.

BCCM Review Update and Support for Independent Retailers and Businesses

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing review of Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) which is being undertaken by consultancy firm Baker Tilly Mooney Moore. The review is being supported by Belfast City Centre Management, the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC) and Department for Communities (DfC). It is being funded by Belfast City Council. The purpose of the review is to assess BCCM’s added value in a changing city centre landscape and to consider how the organisation can complement and support its funders and partners going forward.**
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval for activity to assist local Business Associations to increase footfall and encourage additional investment and spend in local areas and proposes a targeted support intervention for retail businesses in those areas that are likely to be adversely impacted by the construction works around regeneration schemes in the short term. Finally, it proposes the establishment of a pop-up test trading retail unit, potentially working in collaboration with Social Enterprise NI (SENI), to encourage new retailers to test their products in a collaborative retail space.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the work undertaken to date in conducting the review of BCCM;
- Note that a further update on the review will be tabled at the November Committee meeting. This will detail a shortlist of options to be evaluated further and a rationale for each of the options being advanced;
- Note that Officers and the consultancy team are scheduled to provide an update on the work to date and emerging recommendations at the October Party Briefings;
- Approve the proposed way forward to support Business Association activity, with a maximum budget allocation of £30,000;
- Approve a one-year pilot aimed at supporting retailers and other businesses located in areas that are undergoing regeneration projects. A budget of up to £40,000 has been set aside for this work;
- Agree the proposal to develop a test-trading retail space, in association with Social Enterprise NI, at a budget of up to £20,000 for a one-year period.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Belfast City Centre Management review:

Members will recall from the March 2017 Committee meeting that BCCM has undergone some changes to its business model. Two BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) have now been developed, with work on a third BID underway and (if approved) likely to be operational from early 2018. In addition to the BIDs, the Council has also increased its focus on the City Centre, with the establishment of the City Centre Development Team and the allocation of additional resources to help bring forward key development schemes.

3.2 The scope of the review includes:

- Consulting with key stakeholders on the performance and future remit of BCCM;
- Comparing other city case studies for effective approaches to city centre management;
- Conducting an organisation review and evaluation including value for money analysis and definition of remit, role and City Centre Management Services

across organisations so to avoid duplication, ensure efficiency and strategic alignment;

- Identifying a long list of options with estimates and costs;
- Shortlisting options for further appraisal and make recommendations (*a summary of the work to this point will be tabled to November Committee*);
- Producing a comprehensive business case to support a preferred option.

3.3 As part of the review, a total of 85 people contributed to face-to-face stakeholder consultations. A consultation questionnaire has also been issued to businesses within the City Centre (via Citizen Space) to pick up outstanding issues and elicit views on what is required for modern city centre management.

3.4 A long list of options is being considered by a Steering Group consisting of Belfast City Centre Management, the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Department for Communities and Council Officers. A proposed short list of options will be carried forward for further appraisal and tabled to Committee in November for consideration. The lead consultant from Baker Tilly Mooney Moore will be available to attend Party Group Briefings at the end of October to seek Member views and share the detail and rationale behind each of the options.

3.5 Members should note that any recommended changes arising from the review will most likely come into effect 2018/19 financial year. Core funding for the organisation will be considered in this context but the full funding commitment to City Centre Management of £190,000 will be drawn from Council for 2017/18 financial year in accordance with the Committee approval obtained in March 2017.

3.6 Support for local retail groups:

Members will be aware that the Council provides support to new and existing businesses and focuses on activities to increase sales and footfall in local neighbourhood shopping areas. Last year, five Business Associations benefited from this support and they ran a number of marketing and promotional initiatives aimed at generating sales and enhancing the profile of the area with a view to stimulating economic activity.

3.7 A total of £20,464 was drawn across the following associations: Antrim Road Business Association (£3,150),

Ballyhackamore Business Association (£5,000), Strandtown Business Association (£4,977), Hollywood Arches Business Association (£4,937) and West Belfast Traders' Association (£2,400), benefiting a total of 176 Business Association members. It is important to note that Shankill Traders' Association did not avail of support last year but officers are re-engaging with representatives with a view to supporting local businesses in that area.

- 3.8 The Business Associations identified above have been engaging with the Council to seek support for additional business development and promotional support in the current financial year. As with previous years' funding, it is proposed that up to £3,000 per Association will be available from the Council, with a further £2,000 available if the group can provide evidence of £ for £ match funding (total potential Council funding of £5,000 per association).
- 3.9 There continues to be a number of challenges facing Business Associations. Their work plans are delivered by volunteers and capacity and longevity of roles within Associations vary significantly across groups. Business Associations continue to require ongoing expert assistance with capacity building, communications, marketing and PR support to help them plan events, monitor and evaluate activities. While these events are useful in building local capacity and generating a 'feel good' factor in local areas, it is difficult to be precise about the economic benefit against the outputs of the Belfast Agenda. It is considered that it may be more appropriate to look at support for these groups in the context of a wider programme of local area working. Given that this activity is still in its infancy, it is recommended that the current system of support remains in place but that officers engage with colleagues across the organisation to consider whether there is a more effective engagement mechanism for future years.
- 3.10 Resources of up to £30,000 are in the budget year on year to support the Business Associations. This includes costs associated with providing professional PR and marketing support to facilitate the sustainability of the groups and provide advice on individual area campaigns and activities. The availability of this support has been welcomed by the groups. The overall budget is provided for within the existing 2017/18 estimates.

3.11 Helping businesses address short-term challenges associated with redevelopment work

Members will be aware of the significant programme of physical investment that is currently underway across the City. While this will create very positive improvements in the medium to long term, it may create some short-term disturbance that risks impacting negatively on traders and companies located in the vicinity of the works.

3.12 Some of the most significant works currently impacting or likely to impact on local businesses include the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme (due for completion in June 2018) as well as the current phase of the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP), particularly in the built-up area of Andersonstown. If the Casement Park planning application is approved, this could have a disruptive impact on local businesses in the short-term, while the work progresses. Members should note that support will be widespread depending on need across the city.

3.13 In order to support these businesses, it is proposed that an additional budget allocation of up to £40,000 is set aside for a period of up to one year. This would be a flexible resource to be allocated following engagement with relevant businesses. Officers have tested these proposals with some businesses to date and they have indicated that they would benefit from additional promotional and advertising support, social media profiling and voucher schemes to encourage shoppers to use these businesses and mitigate against the negative impact of the works.

3.14 Support for test-trading for new retail businesses

Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda makes a commitment to creating 46,000 new jobs up to 2035. An important element of the job creation growth will be the number of new business start-ups. This figure currently sits at around 1,000 new start-ups each year. However, this is significantly below UK and Irish averages and one of the major challenges for the City is to explore new and innovative mechanisms to increase the volume of new business starts.

3.15 Many of the businesses starting up through the Northern Ireland Business Start-Up Programme (Go for It) are retail-focused businesses. They often struggle to find appropriate retail premises for their business as they are tied into expensive rents and long-term leases. Potentially working

with Social Enterprise NI (or other suitable organisations) to explore the potential for social business start-ups, it is proposed that the Council works to secure a one-year lease on a property which will be a shared retail unit for a number of new business starts. The businesses will be provided with support including marketing and merchandising and will be encouraged to move towards taking on their own retail units at the end of their time in the shared space. A unit has not yet been identified for this activity, but it is proposed that this should align with ongoing investment in some of the redevelopment and regeneration areas. It is expected that the budget for this project will not exceed £20,000.

3.16 Equality and Good Relations Implications

Business Association and retailer support will be directed on a needs-led basis and will be available to businesses all across the City.

317 Financial and Resource Implications

The costs associated with the BCCM Review are being met from existing Economic Development budgets in the current financial year. A funding allocation of £190,000 for BCCM in 2017/18 financial year was approved by this Committee in March 2017.

- 3.18** The additional £40,000 to support businesses that may be negatively impacted by the regeneration works across the City as well as the £20,000 to support the pop-up retail space for new business starts have been set aside within Economic Development budgets for the current year and were approved by this Committee as part of the estimates process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Two BID

The Director of Development provided the Members with an update on the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) in the Linen Quarter.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 9th December, 2015, it had agreed to provide Belfast City Centre Management with £30,000 towards the cost of a dedicated member of staff to develop a BID in the Linen Quarter District, which would be named ‘Belfast Two.’ He advised the Members that this project was now at ballot stage. The Committee was advised that the ballot was open, ending on 26th October, with the declaration of the result taking place on 27th October.

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The Director reminded the Members that a BID was a business-led initiative, where the businesses agreed on the level of funding required to deliver projects and services which were additional to those already being provided by the Council or other statutory partners. The businesses agreed to fund those services, as set out in a business plan, through a levy.

He outlined that the levy would be applied to all eligible businesses within the defined area with a rateable value of, or exceeding, £4,500, provided that they were listed on the Non-Domestic rates list by Land and Property Services, with additional exemptions for religious organisations, voluntary-staffed local community services, non-profits and charities with an entirely subscription and volunteer-based set up.

The Director pointed out that there were 431 properties within the Belfast Two BID area and that the proposed levy for businesses in the area was 1.5% of the rateable value. He advised that this would produce a total annual income of around £455,000 in year one and that it was projected to rise to £510,000 in year five, owing to redevelopment in the area.

The Committee was advised that Belfast City Council would be liable for a levy payment on seven properties within the Belfast Two boundary, totalling approximately £33,601 per annum.

The Director advised the Committee that the Council would have seven votes in the BID ballot and he recommended that the Council used its votes to support the BID.

The Committee:

1. noted the update on the Belfast Two BID; and
2. agreed to a 'yes' vote in the BID ballot, with the votes to be cast by the Director of Finance and Resources on behalf of the Council.

Strategic and Operational Issues

Rural Development Programme – Basic Services Measure

Councillor O'Hara declared an interest in this Item, in that she was a Council nominee on the Local Action Group for Hannahstown, and left the room for the duration of the discussion).

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 seek Members' approval for the Council: To act as the lead applicant for submission of a bid under the Rural Basic Services theme as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2014-2020, on behalf of Hannahstown Community Association: To recommend that the capital match funding element and the**

request that the Council acts as the delivery agent, which is required to support the submission, is referred to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Authorise the submission of a bid under the Rural Basic Services Theme of the Rural Development Programme for Hannahstown Village by Council, on behalf of Hannahstown Community Association.
- To secure the maximum funding allocation of £50,000 for the scheme, which is 75% of a total budget of £66,666, this requires Council to contribute a minimum of £16,666 which would make up the remaining 25% of the budget. As this money is capital, it needs to be considered by the SP&R Committee as the Council's investment decision maker and Members are asked to agree that this scheme is referred to the SP&R Committee for its consideration
- That the project is delivered by the Property and Projects Department, subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Members will recall that at its meeting on the 13 January 2016 the City & Growth Committee agreed to enter into an SLA with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to support the development and delivery of activities within the eligible area for the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP).
- 3.2 At the 8 March 2017 meeting Members agreed to authorise the submission of a bid under the Village Renewal theme of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Hannahstown and Edenderry.
- 3.3 The SP&R Committee Council on 24 March 2017 agreed to provide match funding of £70,000 to secure the maximum allocation of £150,000 capital and approval of a contribution of £7,500 per year for 2016/17 and 2017/18 to support programme overheads from within existing Departmental budgets. It was also agreed that Officer time resource is used to work up the proposals.

- 3.4 A further funding programme under the RDP 2014-2020 is the Basic Services Measure. This is designed to support investments in the setting up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population including related infrastructure. The call for funding opens on 9 October 2017, and closes on Friday 22 December 2017. Applications can be made for up to £50,000.
- 3.5 Hannahstown and Edenderry have been identified as the only villages within the city council area eligible for funding under the Rural Basic Services theme. Mandatory workshops for all potential stakeholders on the RDP measures, including the Rural Basic Services theme were held on 24 November 2015 in Malone House and 2 December 2015 in Sally Gardens Community Centre Poleglass.
- 3.6 Hannahstown Community Association identified a project to improve the Association's community hall facility, however as a community association they cannot apply for the funding and have requested that the Council act as the lead applicant for this funding on their behalf.
- 3.7 To secure the maximum funding allocation of £50,000 for the scheme, which is 75% of a total budget of £66,666, this requires Council to contribute a minimum of £16,666 which would make up the remaining 25% of the budget. There is also a requirement for the Council to act as the delivery agent for the proposal and it is proposed that this is taken forward via the Property & Projects Department, subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.8 Key Issues

The call for funding will officially open on 9 October 2017, and close on Friday 22 December 2017.

The delivery timescale and pre application requirements will include the development of a

- Business Plan
- Evidence of planning permission approval
- All related procurement documentation (quotes/tender documentation)
- Evidence of match funding

3.9 Equality and Good Relations Implications

All activity will be subject to equality screening.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

Match funding - The Rural Development Programme is subject to securing match funding from the Council. To secure the maximum funding allocation of £50,000 for the scheme, which is 75% of a total budget of £66,666, this requires Council to contribute a minimum of £16,666 which would make up the remaining 25% of the budget. As this money is for capital works this needs to be agreed by the SP&R Committee as the Council's investment decision maker, and it is proposed that this is referred to the SP&R Committee for their consideration.

Officer time resources is required in continuing to work up the proposals and as the delivery agent, subject to SP&R approval.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 18th October, 2017

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman L. Patterson; and
Councillors Bell, Bunting, Campbell, Carson,
Clarke, Collins, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Heading,
Hussey, Hutchinson, McConville and McReynolds.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Boyle, Howard and Milne.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd October, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 2(f), Application for the Grant of a Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence – Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 124-144 Royal Avenue, in that he had, at a special meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 28th September, opposed an application for the grant of an Entertainments Licence for a one-off event taking place within the venue on 30th September, on the basis that it should have been dealt with under the delegated authority of the Licensing Committee, and left the room whilst it was under consideration.

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

Licences and 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 Indoor Entertainments Licences
with Previous Convictions - Flame Restaurant/Red Devil Bar**

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

On that basis, the Building Control Manager drew the Members' attention to applications which had been received for the renewal of Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Flame Restaurant and the Red Devil Bar.

He reported that the licensee of Flame Restaurant had, on 3rd February, 2015, been fined £150 and instructed to pay costs of £69, following an inspection by Council officers, which had found that entertainment was being provided without an Entertainments Licence. In terms of the Red Devil Bar, the licensee had, on 11th February, 2014, been convicted of having a locked roller shutter on a final exit and of failing to have the log book for recording pre-event checks available for inspection and been fined £500 and ordered to pay £69 in costs.

He pointed out that the Committee had, in subsequent years, agreed to renew the Entertainments Licences and that, on the two occasions over the past year on which each premises had been inspected, officers had found that all management procedures were being implemented effectively.

He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Flame Restaurant, 46 Howard Street and the Red Devil Bar, 194-198 Falls Road.

**Application for the Grant of an Outdoor Entertainments Licence -
Jubilee Gardens**

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

The Building Control Manager reported that the Gardens, which bordered High Street and Victoria Street, were maintained by the Parks Service and that, in line with its other parks and open spaces, it wished to make them available for small events. The Service had recently received a request from Mr. B. Wolsey, the owner and licensee of the adjacent Bullitt Hotel, for the use of the Gardens, with a view to holding, over the course of the next year, a series of low-key prestigious events. He explained that such

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requests required prior approval by the People and Communities Committee and highlighted the fact that it had, at its meeting on 10th October, granted authority to Mr. Wolsey to hold two Hallowe'en related events in the Jubilee Gardens on Friday, 27th and Saturday, 28th October, on condition that, amongst other things, he acquire an Entertainments Licence and adhere to its terms and conditions. Whilst Mr. Wolsey had been the only person to have, at this stage, expressed an interest in running events within the venue, it would be made available to other prospective users.

He pointed out the licence, if granted, would permit entertainment to take place from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. and would include special conditions around occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints. No written representation had been received in respect of the application and neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered any objection. However, they would each be consulted in advance of any proposed events. He confirmed that officers of the Building Control Service and the Parks Service had discussed the long-term use of the space and that, should the Entertainments Licence be granted, they would engage with event organisers to ensure that the required documentation was submitted and that all safety and technical requirements were met in advance of events taking place. Finally, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had been made aware of Mr. Wolsey's proposed events and had indicated that, in light of their potential scale and nature, it was not anticipated that they would generate significant noise disturbance.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Jubilee Gardens.

**Application for the Variation of an Indoor Entertainments Licence -
The Cuckoo, 149 Lisburn Road**

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received from Silverpine Inns Limited for the variation of a Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises, based upon the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

He reported that entertainment, in the form of a DJ or live band, was provided currently from Monday to Saturday till 1.00 a.m. and on a Sunday till midnight. The company was now seeking to extend the hours of operation on a Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night till 2.00 a.m. the following morning, to enable it to compete with other venues which operated until that time and beyond.

He confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. In such circumstances, it was normal practice for the Entertainments Licence to be issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, given that the application related to the extension of the hours of entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m., it was being presented to the Committee for consideration.

The Building Control Manager reported further that, since the Entertainments Licence had been renewed, officers of the Building Control Service had visited the

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premises on a number of occasions, whilst entertainment had been taking place and as part of the application process. Those had indicated that all of the operational and management procedures were being implemented. However, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had, in the past year, received four complaints, three of which related to noise from patrons and the other to loud music emanating from the premises. Whilst no formal action had been taken on those occasions, the Unit had requested that, should the Committee be minded to approve the application, it would welcome appropriate measures being put in place to manage patron dispersal and keep noise levels to a minimum. With that in mind, he pointed out that the company was aware of the fact that its premises were located close to residential properties and had identified a number of measures which it would be prepared to implement, should its application be approved.

At this point, several Members expressed concern that the company had failed to consult with local residents on its proposal to extend its hours of operation on some nights and stated that it would be beneficial to obtain further information on that issue and the measures which it was proposing to put in place for the management of the premises generally.

The Committee was informed that Mr. M. Boyle and Mr. J. Crawford, Directors of Silverpine Inns Limited, were in attendance and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Crawford informed the Members that, upon acquiring The Cuckoo in April, the company had undertaken a number of actions to address noise breakout, such as installing additional sound proofing around, for example, windows and the stage area. In addition, it had, as part of its business planning process, conducted market research amongst patrons, which had highlighted, amongst other things, a desire for the premises to operate beyond 1.00 a.m. and that had given rise to this application.

In response to the issue which had been raised by Members around the absence of consultation with residents, he confirmed that the company had, until recently, been unaware of the existence in the area of a local residents' association. He confirmed that, should the application be approved, the company would undertake to meet on a monthly basis with the association and with Council officers to discuss any issues which might be raised around the operation of the premises and would circulate a dedicated telephone number on which management could be contacted, should the need arise. It would undertake also to deploy two security/resident liaison personnel from the current security company on a length of the street outside the venue after closing time to minimise noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour, subject to the necessary approvals being obtained.

Mr. Boyle and Mr. Crawford were thanked by the Chairperson and they retired from the table.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for The Cuckoo, 149 Lisburn Road, to enable entertainment to take place on a Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night till 2.00 a.m. the following morning and delegated authority to Council officers to draft appropriate conditions to be attached to the licence, in line with the undertakings which had been provided at the meeting by the company's representative.

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The Committee agreed also that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on those premises which were licensed to provide entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m. and the Council's powers to manage their impact upon local communities.

**Application for the Variation of an Outdoor Entertainments Licence -
Thompson's Garage, 3 Patterson's Place**

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

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

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

Premises and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant
Thompson's Garage 3 Patterson's Place Belfast	WK/201601621	Mr. Stephen Boyd Endless Music Limited 41 Downshire Road Belfast

- 1.2 A copy of the application form and a location map have been circulated to the Committee.**
- 1.3 The nature of the variation is to increase the occupancy of the outdoor area from 104 persons to 185 persons.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the application in light of the legal proceedings against the applicant and determine if you wish to refuse the application on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of offences under the Order.**
- 2.2 Should Members be satisfied that the application need not be refused you are then required to:**
- 1. approve the application for the variation of the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence, or**
 - 2. approve the application for the variation of the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence with special conditions to be attached.**

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

2.4 Should the Committee decide to refuse the variation application, and the applicant decides to appeal, the licence will continue with its present conditions until the appeal is determined.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting on 17th May, the Committee agreed to grant the applicant a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the premises. This was subsequent to the Committee agreeing to grant the renewal of the indoor Entertainments Licence at your meeting of 19 April 2017.

Details of the Premises and Proposals

3.2 The areas currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

- the Ground Floor Bar, with a maximum capacity of 240 persons;
- the Mezzanine Floor, with a maximum capacity of 190 persons; and
- the Outdoor Area, with a maximum capacity of 104 persons.

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

- Monday to Sunday: 11.30 a.m. to 3.00 a.m. the following morning.

3.4 The premise operates as a public bar and nightclub, with entertainment being provided on both floors in the form of DJs.

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

- Monday to Saturday 11.30 a.m. to 11.00 p.m., and
- Sunday 12.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

- 3.6 Entertainment is provided to the outdoor area in the form of solo performers, live bands or a DJ through the in-house speaker system.
- 3.7 Extensive works have been carried out to the outdoor area which includes the addition of a 1st floor balcony and toilet facilities. This allows patrons to smoke in the private area provided. Previously patrons used a smoking area on Patterson's Place which caused some management and anti-social behaviour problems.
- 3.8 The applicant has applied to vary the existing Outdoor Entertainments Licence to increase the occupancy of the outdoor area from 104 persons to 185 persons.
- 3.9 The areas proposed to provide entertainment are:
- the outdoor area, with a maximum capacity of 150 persons; and
 - the outdoor balcony, with a maximum capacity of 35 persons.
- 3.10 Members are advised that the maximum indoor occupancy for the premise of 430 persons will be managed in conjunction with the agreed maximum occupancy of the outdoor area to ensure numbers do not exceed capacity.
- 3.11 The outdoor area is covered by the existing Liquor Licence. A layout plan of the proposed outdoor area has been forwarded to Members.

Previous Convictions

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

First Conviction

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

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

Second Conviction

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

Representations

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

PSNI

- 3.21 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

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

Health, Safety and Welfare Inspections

- 3.23 In support of this application, the applicant has employed the services of fire engineering consultants and provided plans

confirming how the migration of patrons will be managed between the relevant areas.

- 3.24 Members are advised that officers have carried out a total of four During Performance Inspections over the past twelve months. On each occasion, all technical matters were satisfactory and appropriate measures and management procedures were being implemented effectively.
- 3.25 The premise has also been subject to inspections as part of the licensing application renewal process. As a result, all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures have been checked and are satisfactory.
- 3.26 The premises will continue to be inspected as part of our During Performance Inspection regime and will be subject to further monitoring to ensure the applicant adheres to their licence conditions.

Noise Issues

- 3.27 The Council's Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) was consulted as part of the grant application for the Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a special condition was included on the Entertainments Licence requiring the applicant to maintain a noise monitoring logbook to ensure compliance with the agreed music noise level of 79dB_{L_{Aeq5minutes}} and to keep a regular check on volume levels at noise sensitive facades when outdoor entertainment is being provided.
- 3.28 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been further consulted in relation to this variation application and confirmed that it has received no noise complaints since the Outdoor Entertainments Licence was granted in May of this year.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for Thompson's Garage, 3 Patterson's Place, thereby increasing the occupancy level of the outdoor area to 185 persons.

**Application for the Grant of an Indoor Entertainments Licence -
Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 124-144 Royal Avenue**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Ground Floor of the former Belfast Telegraph Printworks, based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide indoor music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.**

Premises and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant
Belfast Telegraph Printworks 124-144 Royal Avenue Belfast	WK/201701227	Mr. Alan Simms Limelight Belfast Limited 17 Ormeau Avenue Belfast.

- 1.2 Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence applications which are not the subject of objections is that the Director of Planning and Place will grant the licence as provided for in the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.**

- 1.3 However, further to consideration of the application at a special SP&R Committee on Thursday 28 September, the Director of Planning and Place and the City Solicitor have requested that the application be considered by the Licensing Committee.**

- 1.4 A copy of the application form and a location map have been circulated to the Committee.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations received in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:**

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

- 2.2 If the application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the**

applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.

- 2.3 Members are reminded that the applicant is required to obtain all statutory consents before any further events take place.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Consideration by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

- 3.1 The Committee will be aware that, on 28th September, the City Solicitor tabled an item at the special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee regarding the interim use of the Belfast Telegraph Printworks by Limelight Belfast Limited.
- 3.2 The Limited Liability Partnership between Belfast City Council and McAleer and Rushe (Bel Tel LLP) acquired the Belfast Telegraph site in October, 2016.
- 3.3 Following the selection process, the partnership agreed a nine-month licence with Limelight Belfast Limited to occupy and manage a large section of the ground floor of the site in the non-listed part of the building.
- 3.4 A situation then arose whereby Limelight Belfast Limited had marketed and sold an estimated 2,000 tickets for an event on 30th September, in advance of having its Entertainments Licence in place (albeit that it had applied in August and the consultation period had ended in advance of the event itself), and prior to having received planning permission for a change of use to part of the building and physical alterations to the non-listed portion of the building (an application has now been lodged).
- 3.5 The occupiers had engaged with the Building Control Service and had submitted an Entertainments Licence application in August and undertaken significant capital works to make the building safe for the proposed use. Where there are no objections, and safety conditions have been met, as in this case, the Director of Planning and Place can approve the Entertainments Licence without placing it in front of the Committee. However, it was considered that in the circumstances that the decision should have political input.
- 3.6 Having been informed that all the necessary building works and safety measures had been undertaken satisfactorily, including the provision of an Events Management Plan, and in the knowledge the licensing application had been reviewed and approved by the Fire and Rescue Service and PSNI, the

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to grant an Entertainments Licence for a one-off event on 30th September.

- 3.7 A copy of the minutes from that meeting has been circulated to the Committee.**
- 3.8 Following the Committee meeting, Council officers, along with members of Bel Tel LLP, as the landlord, met with the occupiers of the building to confirm that an Entertainments Licence would relate only to the event taking place on 30th September and that the client would need to do whatever was required to obtain the statutory consents in a timely way before any further events would take place.**

Consideration by the Licensing Committee

- 3.9 Members are therefore asked to consider the application by Mr. Alan Simms of Limelight Belfast Limited for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the ground floor of the former Belfast Telegraph Printworks.**
- 3.10 Members are reminded that the applicant is required to obtain all statutory consents before any further events take place.**
- 3.11 Mr. Simms is the licensee for Katy Dalys, the Limelight and Limelight 2, 17-21 Ormeau Avenue and is also the event promoter for Belsonic.**
- 3.12 The areas where entertainment is proposed to be provided are as follows:**
- the Main Hall, with a maximum capacity of 1870 persons;**
 - Room 2, with a maximum capacity of 460 persons; and**
 - Bar Area and Lobby, with a maximum capacity of 300 persons.**
- 3.13 The applicant has applied to provide entertainment on the following days and hours:**
- Monday to Sunday: 7.00 p.m. to 1.00 am the following morning.**
- 3.14 The applicant proposes to provide entertainment in the form of DJ's and live bands. During these occasions, it will operate a public bar facility via an Occasional Liquor Licence.**
- 3.15 A layout plan of the venue has been circulated to Members.**

Representations

- 3.16 Notice of the application has been advertised and no written representations have been received.

Terms of Licence between Bel Tel LLP and Limelight Belfast Limited

- 3.17 The applicant has carried out alterations and remedial works to the venue which have been completed to the satisfaction of the Service. However, at present planning permission has not yet been granted for change of use for the building and, as this is also a prerequisite of the Licence Agreement, the Director of Planning and Place and the City Solicitor have requested that the application be placed before the Committee for consideration.

PSNI

- 3.18 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that they have no objection to the application. Officers were also included in the discussions and planning for the event held on 30 September. A copy of its correspondence has been circulated to the Committee.

Health, Safety and Welfare Inspections

- 3.19 The premise has been subject to inspections as part of the Entertainments Licence application process and the building works carried out under the Building Regulations application.
- 3.20 Additionally, officers of the Service were present throughout the event held on 30th September and were satisfied that all safety measures and management procedures were in place to protect the public, performers and staff.

NIFRS

- 3.21 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted in relation to the application and have confirmed that they have no objections. They were also included in the discussions and planning for the event which was held on 30 September and will be kept informed of any potential future events at the venue.

Noise Issues

- 3.22 An acoustic report outlining the measures to be taken when entertainment is being provided has been assessed by EPU. The report outlines the measures to be put in place to

minimise disturbance to neighbouring premises, either due to noise breakout or from patron activity.

- 3.23 Officers from the Night Time Noise Team carried out monitoring of the venue and surrounding area during the event and found that noise levels were satisfactory. No complaints have been received in relation to the event held on 30 September.**

Applicant

- 3.24 The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.**

3.25 Financial and Resource Implications

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

3.26 Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

The Building Control Manager reviewed the application and pointed out that the applicant company had been informed by officers that, should the Entertainments Licence be granted, it would not be permitted to hold further events within the building until all of the statutory consents were in place. He added that a deputation, acting on behalf of the applicant company, was in attendance should the Committee require additional information.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from the deputation and Ms. O. Farquharson, Mr. J. Morgan and Mr. L. Murray and were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Murray informed the Members he was Limelight Belfast Limited’s legal representative. He highlighted the fact that the company had gained a reputation for delivering successful events in the City, which had contributed to it being selected in April to manage the ground floor of the former Belfast Telegraph building, and that it would be promoting cultural events with the European Capital of Culture 2023 bid in mind.

He reported that, since being selected, Limelight Belfast Limited had worked closely with Bel Tel LLP and that all Building Control requirements had been met in advance of the successful event which had taken place on 30th September. In terms of planning requirements, he explained that advice which had been obtained initially from a planning consultant had indicated that, based upon similar major developments, planning approval might not be required for the temporary use of the building. However, once it had been established that it was required, an application had been submitted and was being processed. Mr. Murray concluded by stating that Limelight Belfast Limited would

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continue to engage with Bel Tel LLP to ensure the success of the project and by urging the Committee to grant the Entertainments Licence.

In response to a question which had been raised by a Member around the company's failure to apply for an Entertainments Licence well in advance of the event on 30th September, he explained that it had, since April, been engaged in an ongoing process with Bel Tel LLP around the selection process and associated issues and with the Building Control Service to obtain the necessary approvals.

The Chairperson thanked the deputation and they left the table.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to grant to Limelight Belfast Limited a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the former Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 124-144 Royal Avenue.

Non-Delegated Matters

Provision of Training for the Licensing Committee

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th September, it had agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain training around the Licensing Committee Protocol and representation process, the legal principles governing the decision-making process and alcohol licensing matters and its relationship to entertainments licensing, in order to assist it in discharging its duties.

The Building Control Manager drew the Members' attention to three dates which had been identified for the delivery of that training, namely, Tuesday, 21st November, Wednesday, 20th December and Monday, 15th January, and confirmed that further dates would be made available beyond January, if required. The training programme would be developed by the Building Control Service, in conjunction with the Legal Services and Human Resources Sections, and one of the sessions would be delivered by a member of the legal profession who specialised in licensing matters.

After discussion, the Committee approved the holding of training sessions at 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st November and Monday, 15th January and agreed that all Members of the Council be invited to attend. The Committee agreed also that the training should include an overview of the advertisement process associated with the various types of licensing applications.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 17th October, 2017

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Bunting, Carson,
Dorrian, Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson,
Johnston, Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown
and Mullan.

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

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

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

The Committee noted that there had been some opposition to and dissatisfaction with the inclusion of the item '*Additional Item – Operation of the Planning Committee*' and the written record of the minute. The Democratic Services Manager provided additional clarification on the matter.

Councillor Armitage also noted that he had not been present for the entire discussion of the item.

(Councillor Bunting entered the meeting at this point.)

Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 8.g) LA04/2015/0061/F - Fifty-five bed nursing home on lands to rear of 21 Finaghy Park Central, Councillor McAteer declared an interest, in so far as she had facilitated a meeting for some of the objectors of the proposal.

In relation to item 8. a) Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/0623/F and LA04/2017/0628/DCA – Single storey rear extension, rear dormer and first floor extension to rear with first floor front extension at 10 Broomhill Park, Councillor McDonough-Brown declared an interest, in so far as he had submitted an objection to the proposal.

Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 19th September, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 10th October in respect of planning application LA04/2016/2205/F - Erection of a two storey dwelling (revised scheme), west and to the rear of 2 Knockdarragh Park.

**Response to consultation requests from Department for Infrastructure:
LA04/2017/1388/F - Transport Hub**

The Committee was advised that a consultation request had been received from the Department for Infrastructure for the proposed application for a new integrated transport interchange which comprised a station concourse, 26 bus stands, 8 railway platforms, bus maintenance and parking, track and signalling enhancements, bus access bridge, cycle and taxi provision, car parking, new public square, public realm improvements, highway improvements, infrastructure improvements, temporary structures for bus operations during construction and temporary site construction compounds.

The case officer provided an overview of the response to the consultation request and informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following representation had been received from an objector:

- support for the retention of the Boyne Bridge within the proposed Transport Hub development;
- that associating the new infrastructure with a historic structure would form an important link between the history of the place and its future; and
- that Edinburgh Waverley Station was an example of the integration of changes in level and different ages of infrastructure.

He advised that correspondence had also been received from the Applicant's agent which outlined the following points:

- that Department for Infrastructure (DfI) had not raised any matters which would be considered to require a Section 76 agreement, with all matters being appropriately dealt with by way of planning conditions; and
- that wider public benefits could either be secured by planning conditions or the acceptance that public commitment to the wider scheme and local initiatives should remove the need for any formal agreement in the form of Section 76.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. B. Dickson BEM, representing Blackstaff Community Development Association and Boyne Bridge Defenders, and Mr. D. Hill, architect, Belfast Urban Studio, in objection to the application. Mr. Dickson

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suggested that the Boyne Bridge was of historical importance and it should not be destroyed.

Mr. Hill raised concerns regarding the current plans for the site. He stated that the proposed entrance door to the new station would be too far away from the City Centre and the walk to the station from the City Hall would involve crossing two major roads. He stressed the importance of the structure of the Boyne Bridge and advised that he had submitted plans to DfI and Translink which outlined an alternative vision which did not demolish the Boyne bridge, but used it as a canopy. He suggested that the Council should recommend to DfI that the proposal should undergo an Office of Government Commerce Gateway (OGC) Review and that the development of the current proposal would be a mistake.

During points of clarification Mr. Hill suggested that engagement with Translink had been ongoing for 3 years and he had questioned the consultation process, suggested route and easy engineering solution for the new station with them. He suggested that the OGC was set up to improve the quality of large scale public building and that DfI were familiar with the OGC review process.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. C. Conway, Chief Executive Officer, representing Translink, and Ms. H. Harrison, representing Juno Planning. Mr. Conway advised that the proposed transport hub was a transport led regeneration project and that the consultation process had been delivered and the proposal had been approved by the Department for Infrastructure and the Department of Finance. He suggested that the proposal would bring social and economic benefits, connectivity, business, tourism, and growth of the transport system. He suggested that there had been substantial growth in public transport need and at peak times the Europa Bus Centre and Great Victoria railway station experienced high volumes of passengers, large queues and associated safety risks.

In relation to the objector's comments, he advised that there were a number of bridges documenting history in the area dating back to the 1600's, such as the Saltwater Bridge and the proposal sought to preserve the remains of this in situ. He informed the Committee that the 1930's Boyne Bridge had been assessed by the Department for Communities who had raised no objection to the development, however, the proposal intended to reuse and integrate elements of the Boyne Bridge into the new design such as the steel, lights and name plaques. He pointed out that the square at the front of the Transport Hub was expected to be named Saltwater Square. He highlighted that an experienced design team had considered a range of technical options for the Transport Hub, and the design was driven by engineering constraints. He suggested that the preferred option for the development would provide active frontage to Grosvenor Road and Durham Street, was based on bus and rail engineering and operability, together with the potential for regeneration, resilience and future proofing. He confirmed that these objectives could not be met, other than with the current proposed design and the removal of the Boyne Bridge. He advised that Translink had a commitment to work with the local community in terms to public realm works and landscaping. He suggested that the plans for the Weavers Cross part of the development would offer a range of opportunities which included construction employment, training and apprenticeships.

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During points of clarification, Mr. Conway advised that there were a number of engineering challenges on the site such as culverts, buildings in situ, railway safety requirements, together with technical challenges and regeneration considerations. He advised that Translink had worked closely with various community groups regarding the potential to regenerate the area and the naming of the square. In relation to the preservation of the Saltwater Bridge, he advised that a survey had been completed as far as possible, and an archaeological survey would be completed in the future. He also suggested that the proposed design had allowed for the potential for the electrification of trains in the future and space for a railway extension.

During discussion, the Director reiterated that DfI would be responsible for determining the application and that the recommended response to the consultation had been outlined in the report as follows:

- Further clarification was required regarding cycle and car parking. There was reference to a large surface car park which was marked as temporary, however, the Environmental Statement made reference to only a reduction of 21 spaces following completion. It was noted that that staff numbers were anticipated at 300 daily, staff parking was proposed at 90 spaces. Further clarification would be required on justification of this number as well as a parking plan to delineate where the spaces were and how the uses would be conditioned;
- In addition, the Transport Plan compared existing and proposed parking spaces on site but there was repeated reference to parking at Central Station which it would not appear to be appropriate to use for a before and after analysis. Similarly, some of the modelling information referred to residential units which had not been included in this application;
- In light of the scale of the proposed Station Square, the applicant should consider the inclusion of a larger amount of usable green space, as an integral part of its design;
- In light of the scale of development and the context of the wider masterplan, a Section 76 agreement would be recommended to ensure that public realm, phasing, landscaping and parking were completed in the appropriate time and manner. In the absence of a legal agreement, the Council would recommend that a Phasing and Implementation Plan was required and conditioned to formalise the phasing plans as set out in 4.11 of Volume I of the Environmental Statement and other documents, and agreed prior to commencement; and
- In light of the importance of the project in terms of employment creation, a Section 76 agreement would be recommended to leverage opportunities for Belfast City residents to benefit both from the construction jobs and long terms jobs that may come forward, working with development partners and local training groups in addition to the Council's Belfast Works initiative. In the absence of a legal agreement, the Council would recommend that a plan be

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required and conditioned for submission to the Council outlining the applicant's proposals for access to employment opportunities.

During further discussion, a Member raised the potential for regeneration opportunities for the communities in the area and a direct resource for local communities to deal with issues such as disruption, transport, and business closures. A Member also suggested that a Section 76 agreement had the potential for supporting local regeneration such as business development, tourism initiatives, and tackling health inequalities, and that resources at a local level for the wider community via development contributions should be considered.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the submission of the Consultation Response to the Department for Infrastructure as outlined in the report (copy available on Modern.gov), with the addition of a paragraph highlighting the broader regeneration opportunities and resources for local communities which this development presented and calling for these to be considered as part of the recommended Section 76 agreement.

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 11th September and 10th October, 2017.

Abandonments and Extinguishments 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 the rear of 50 - 60 Cromwell Road and Carlisle Parade, and the Abandonment of Public Rights of Way at the Lisburn Road Bus Turning Circle.

Miscellaneous Items

New Planning IT System - Update

The Committee was provided with an update regarding the ongoing process being undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure(DfI) in association with all 11 Councils on the replacement of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal.

It was reported that DfI and local government officers had been working together to progress a new planning IT system and that a discovery exercise, to identify the key

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requirements, had been taken forward by consultants Deloitte to ascertain key functions of the new system. This had involved engagement at 30 workshops with a wide range of stakeholders from the local government, central government and other organisations.

This had led to widespread agreement on the following key functions of any new planning IT system:

- The ability to accept on-line applications in order to move towards a paperless process;
- The ability to accept on-line payments;
- The ability to manage and monitor large volume of planning applications;
- Notifications and alerts for application updates for all users of the system;
- A consistent mapping service with easy to select mapping layers with each Authority having the ability to manage their own default filters;
- A search function to allow users to search the system across several different;
- Search criteria, and enable each Authority to create and save their own standard searches;
- The ability for each Authority to manage, customize and maintain their own templates, and library of conditions and refusal reasons; and
- The ability for each Authority to produce their own core reports including Key Performance Indicator reports.

The Committee was informed that the discovery phase had also identified four potential business solutions:

- One shared IT system that is collectively managed / controlled;
- One shared IT system that is collectively managed / controlled but with local control for specific functions;
- One shared public facing IT system with back-office IT system for each Department and local council; or
- Twelve standalone IT systems – one for each Department and local council;

It was reported that PA Consulting had been appointed to draft a business case which would be ready later in the autumn, to provide an impartial view of the available options, taking into consideration costs, timeframes, and governance and funding arrangements, to identify the preferred option going forward for a new planning IT system.

It was highlighted that the principle of identifying options had been recognised by planning officers as the appropriate way forward, however, the Council had not received all of the information it required, including costings, that would allow assessment of each business solution at this stage.

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The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that officers continue to engage with DfI and the 10 other planning authorities over the coming months, in relation to business solution for new planning IT system. The Committee also agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to highlight that an urgent response was required to update the Council on the business case, costings and timescale of the proposed new Planning Portal.

Restricted Item

Departmental Performance Update

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

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

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.

The Director provided an overview of the report regarding an update on the departmental planning performance. He highlighted that the figures outlined were internally sourced and not official statistics from the Department for Infrastructure, and therefore, might be subject to change once the official statistics were subsequently released.

He informed the Committee that the Planning Department were not achieving the statutory targets for the processing times of planning applications. In addition, following the changes to the composition of staff in the Local Planning Applications Team on 21st August, 2017, it had become apparent that there were a significant number of long outstanding local applications in the system. As a consequence, a solutions based framework had been put in place by the new Local Team staff to reduce the numbers of such applications at the earliest opportunity. This would result in a negative impact on the determination of local planning applications over the next six months.

The Committee noted the contents of the report, in particular the current performance, measurements put in place to address processing times and the short term impact on performance. The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting to include performance statistics and details of the following:

- Section 76 agreements;
- legacy planning applications; and
- the processing of Major planning application.

(Councillor Magee returned to the Committee table at this point.)

Planning Applications

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

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/0623/F and LA04/2017/0628/DCA - Single storey rear extension, rear dormer and first floor extension to rear and first floor front extension at 10 Broomhill Park

(Councillors Bunting and McDonough-Brown took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 19th September when it had originally been considered.)

The Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received on behalf of Mr. Johnston, an objector, citing exceptional circumstances. He advised that the objector had already made a presentation at the Committee Meeting on 19th September. The Committee agreed not to receive the deputation.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th September, given the issues which had been raised regarding the first floor front extension not complying with the Malone Conservation Area Guidelines, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report.

The case officer provided an overview of the addendum report and highlighted the inclusion of the following potential reason for refusal:

1. The proposed first floor front extension is contrary to paragraph 5.2.47 of A Design Guide for the Malone Conservation Area in that, it would, if permitted add another storey to an original single storey attached garaged at an Inter-War residence which would result in harm to the Malone Conservation Area.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, shadow tests had been submitted by the agent who had also suggested the following:

- the study concluded that the proposed extensions would have a minor impact in general on the gable wall of 12 Broomhill Park and an insignificant impact on the kitchen window of 12 Broomhill Park, which had been the subject of this objection.

She advised that the following further objections had been received from Strategic Planning, that the proposal was contrary to:

- Addendum to PPS 7 - Loss of Light / Overshadowing;
- Addendum to PPS 7 - Dominance; and

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- PPS6 and A Design Guide for Malone Conservation Area.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack.

The case officer advised that although a possible reason for refusal had been outlined in the report, the recommendation remained that the application should be approved.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey and
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee, agrees to refuse the application based on the reason for refusal outlined in the case officer's report, in that the proposed first floor front extension is contrary to paragraph 5.2.47 of 'A Design Guide for the Malone Conservation Area' (DGMCA) in that, it would, if permitted, add another storey to an original single storey attached garaged at an Inter-War residence which would result in harm to the Malone Conservation Area, together with the additional reasons for refusal:

- the first floor front extension is contrary to Paragraph 5.2.32 of the DGMCA as the extension is to the front of the building and not the rear wall; and
- the first floor front extension is contrary to Paragraph 5.2.32 of the DGMCA as it adversely affects the visual and physical primacy of the original building's three dimensional form;

Both of which would also result in harm to the Malone Conservation Area.

On a vote by show of hands 7 Members voted for the proposal and 5 against and it was declared carried.

The Committee also agreed that a report be submitted to the Committee meeting in November regarding planning guidance on the practice for deferring planning applications for potential reasons for refusal and that the Design Guide for the Malone Conservation Area be circulated to the Members of the Committee.

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2016/2205/F - Erection of a two storey dwelling (revised scheme) West and to the rear of 2 Knockdarragh Park

(Councillors Bunting and McAteer took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 19th September when it had originally been considered.)

The Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received from Mr. Smyrl, an objector, citing exceptional circumstances. He advised

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that the objector had already made a presentation at the Committee Meeting on 19th September. The Committee agreed not to receive the deputation.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th September, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The case officer provided an overview of the addendum report. She highlighted that additional conditions had been outlined to the recommendation for approval, in relation to landscaping on the boundary with 2 Knockdarragh Park, obscure glazing on the Velux windows and materials to be agreed for the proposed hardstanding car parking area.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following objections had been received from residents:

- the addendum report failed to explain if the proposal would be acceptable regardless of the planning history;
- the addendum report failed to offer any assessment as to whether there had been any material change in circumstances since the previous grant of planning permission on the application site;
- the addendum report failed to consider 'errors' in original case officer's report as highlighted in objections from Mr. and Mrs. Smyrl;

- the original case officer report was inaccurate in respect of the relationship between the proposal and existing dwellings, and the relationship between 354 and the adjacent building;
- the existing back land development was of a different character to the proposal;
- increase in noise from cars;
- the layout was contrary to the Creating Places Design Guide;
- the loss of privacy and nuisance;
- obstruction of access during the construction phase;
- ownership issues and health of the tree on the site;
- the development would be out-of-character with the surrounding area;
- the proposal failed to meet the minimum depth requirement of 80m for a back land development;
- the proposal would be greater in density than other buildings in the area;
- the dwelling would be facing onto the back of another property at a proximity closer than what was required;
- objection to a 2.5 storey dwelling on the site;
- the increase in density and overshadowing;
- the potential impact on property values.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack.

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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.

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

**LA04/2015/0061/F - Fifty-five bed nursing home on lands to rear of 21
Finaghy Park Central**

(Councillor McAteer, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The case officer outlined the application for the erection of a fifty-five bed nursing home with associated parking and landscaping (amended scheme).

The Committee received a representation from Mr. D. Mullholland, resident, in objection to the application. He suggested that the proposal would change the character of the area and affect the townscape character designation and raised concerns in relation to the elevation of the design. He highlighted that there had been a number of objections to the proposal and suggested that the plans were void of character and too large and dominant for the area. He questioned the height of the proposal and suggested that it had the potential to dwarf all the buildings in the surrounding area and there would be a loss of privacy for neighbouring residents. He indicated that the development proposed only a few trees and domestic hedging to obscure views into neighbouring properties, and almost none of the current green space would remain, if the development was approved. He suggested that the development would remove seepage and flood defences and also had the potential to reduce property value in the area. He indicated that the proposal would result in an increase in traffic and accidents, and affect car parking availability in the area.

The Committee received representation from Councillor McAteer who outlined a range of objections to the case officer's recommendation for approval. She suggested that the proposal was out of character in relation to the townscape of the area and highlighted that weight should be given to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan in the decision making process. She advised that residents had raised issues with the height, density and massing of the proposal and that it would be in contrast to the other residential properties in the area. She raised concerns in relation to the elevation of the site, off street car parking, traffic management, lack of turning points for traffic, congestion and the additional risk of flooding. She suggested that a site visit would be beneficial for the Committee.

During points of clarification, the case officer confirmed the history of planning on the site and that Transport NI were content with the application and the access and parking proposed. She highlighted that the planning conditions included in the case officer's report were reasonable and necessary for the recommendation.

After discussion, the Committee, given the issues which have been raised regarding car parking, scale, massing and overdevelopment at the site, agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the

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Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand. The Committee also agreed that a representative from Transport NI be invited to attend.

(Councillor McAteer returned to the Committee table at this point.)

LA04/2017/1607/F - Renewal of Temporary Planning Permission for Exhibition Centre (Application Ref LA04/2015/0057/F) and installation of entrance lobbies at 17 Queens Road

The case officer advised that the principle of the proposed development had already been established on the site through the previous granting of a proposal for a three-year period on 30th June, 2015. He advised that two entrance lobbies had been added, the purpose of which was to better manage the flow of people into and out of the exhibition centre. He indicated that, given the temporary nature of the proposal, it would not conflict with the zoning or prejudice the future redevelopment of the site in line with the planned development of Titanic Quarter. He advised that the principle of an exhibition centre was considered acceptable in this case for a further temporary 5-year period.

He highlighted that the Environmental Protection Unit had asked for further detail in relation to floor structure detail to confirm if there would be adequate mitigation of potential gas pathways and how they might be broken up. However, reports which had been submitted with the previous application on the site (LA04/2015/0057/F) concluded that the structure would block any potential contaminant pathways and that there was no need for any additional remediation.

During points of clarification, the Committee received representation from Mr. B. Kelly, agent representing the applicant. He explained that an events management plan was in place which included the sequencing of car parks for large scale event. He advised that the need for a continued temporary building was so that the applicant's business could continue to grow and that they could give certainty to event operators and attract future events. He suggested that a permanent building would be an objective of the applicant in the future. He pointed out that a Traffic Forum had been established to alleviate disruption in the area and investment had been made in the connection to the Titanic Train halt. He advised that the issue of poor lighting in the car parking area would be raised with the applicant.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson, and
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

That the Committee agrees to grant approval to the application for a 3-year temporary period, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

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

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Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Magee, and
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee agrees to grant approval to the application for a 5-year temporary period, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

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

(Councillor McDonough-Brown returned to the Committee table at this point.)

LA04/2017/0348/F - Factory and office for production of timber sheds and play structures on site adjacent to 729 Springfield Road

(Councillors Dorrian and Hussey had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The case officer outlined the proposal for the construction of a factory and office for production of timber sheds and play structures. She advised that the proposed site layout included 12 car parking spaces for staff and access for an articulated lorry.

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

LA04/2017/1509/F- Temporary car park with associated lighting, kerbing, drainage and surfacing on ground to the rear of 131 Andersonstown Road and bounded by the South Link Road

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 in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

(Councillor Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point)

LA04/2017/1522/F - Conversion of dwelling to a HMO at 3 Pembroke Street

The case officer outlined the proposal for the conversion of a dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation.

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

Chairperson

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