

# Public Document Pack

## BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

### SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 4th December, 2017 at 6.00 pm., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council Meeting of 1st November, 2017 (Pages 1 - 8)
5. Request to Address the Council  

(To consider a request from a representative of Unite the Union to address the Council in relation to the motion being proposed by Councillor Heading on Bombardier)
6. Official Announcements
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th November, 2017 (Pages 9 – 72)
8. People and Communities Committee of 7th and 13th November, 2017 (Pages 73 - 108)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 8th and 21st November, 2017 (Pages 109 - 144)
10. Licensing Committee of 9th November, 2017 (Pages 145 - 148)
11. Planning Committee of 14th November, 2017 (Pages 149 - 158)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited Shareholders' Committee of 6th November, 2017 (Pages 159 - 162)
13. Notices of Motion
  - a) Belfast's Historic Environment

Proposed by Councillor McAteer,  
Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

“Belfast boasts a rich historic environment that is both distinctive and irreplaceable. The continued care and conservation of these unique assets and their re-use as part of the heritage-led regeneration of Belfast will not only recognise the intrinsic value of the City’s historic built environment but also ensure that these invaluable assets will significantly contribute to prosperity, culture, pride of place, tourist income generation and a general sense of health and wellbeing.

This Council will encourage imaginative and creative approaches to Belfast's conservation and heritage assets to ensure that they are protected, re-purposed and developed as an important driver for sustainable economic development and job creation, the provision of much needed housing, community and cultural animation and the creation of environments and public spaces that citizens and visitors alike can enjoy.

This Council will work to inform, shape and embed imaginative and creative approaches to Belfast's conservation and heritage assets in the outworking of the Belfast Agenda, the Local Development Plan, the European Capital of Culture, Belfast City Deal and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018."

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

b) Not-For-Profit Energy Company

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,  
Seconded by Councillor Milne,

"This Council notes that the Scottish Government and a number of local authorities have established not-for-profit energy firms in search of new revenue, to restore faith in public services and tackle fuel poverty.

The Council notes that the first and best-known publicly owned energy companies, Robin Hood Energy in Nottingham and Bristol Energy, have given consumers, particularly those on low incomes, more choice and the option of a supplier whose only job is to secure the lowest price for consumers.

The Council agrees to explore the potential benefits of establishing a Belfast City Council owned not-for-profit energy company to tackle fuel poverty in Belfast."

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

c) Bombardier

Proposed by Councillor Heading,  
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

"This Council recognises the vital significance of Bombardier Aerospace, formerly Shorts, for the Northern Ireland economy, with four thousand three hundred workers directly employed and a further twenty thousand employed indirectly in the supply chain or through induced economic activity. The Council express its profound concern at the threat posed to these jobs by the recent protectionist judgements by the US International Trade Commission which effectively placed a 300% surcharge on the C Series aircraft in an attempt to close the US market.

The Council expresses its full solidarity with the workforce and company at this time of trial and agrees to write directly to the Prime Minister, Theresa May MP to request that the government make it known to Boeing that if they do not withdraw their case then they will be excluding themselves from UK procurement opportunities both current and future. The Council also agrees to write to the European Trade Commissioner to request an immediate escalation through existing trade disputes mechanisms.”

**(To be debated by the Council)**

d) Homelessness

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

“This Council notes the concerns around the lack of suitable provision for families and individuals who present as homeless, requiring temporary accommodation. With an increase of 32% in the number of people presenting as homeless in the past five years and a recent report that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) strategy at reducing homelessness has had limited success, the Council calls on NIHE to undertake an urgent review of the current provision. The Council also notes that we still have rough sleepers in the city and calls on all organisations, including the Council and NIHE, to meet urgently to ensure their needs are being met as the weather conditions continue to decline.”

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

e) Education Support

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

"This Council notes the continued Tory led cuts to the Department of Education's budget and the resulting devastating impact on the Education Authorities, schools and youth providers. Schools, youth providers, children, parents and the wider community are now at breaking point with continuing threats to services. The Council strongly opposes these cuts.

The Council also notes the work being carried out by the various Partnership Boards and schools across Belfast to improve standards of literacy and numeracy amongst our young people, particularly those living in areas of high social deprivation. The Council commends the Partnership Boards and schools for their successes to date in improving standards of literacy and numeracy, especially at GCSE level, through their various Easter schools, mid-term schools, community based classes and efforts outside of the classroom. It should be noted that the Council itself also provides educational support through homework clubs (for 5-11 years old) and parent and toddler groups.

For these reasons, this Council agrees to task Council officers to investigate ways in which it can contribute to the continued improvement and academic achievement in literacy and numeracy within local communities and will look at how it can help to overcome various barriers to learning at post primary level."

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

- f) Amendment to Standing Order 30

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

"This Council agrees that 'Standing order 30: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any Member of the Council" be amended to read: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any persons or sections of society, that shows contempt on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability".

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

- g) Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

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

"This Council notes the increasing number of people diagnosed with HIV in Belfast year on year; is concerned at the levels of stigma experienced by people living with HIV; acknowledges the need for a new campaign to promote awareness and prevention, specifically tailored to Northern Ireland and the City of Belfast; commends the work of Belfast based, Positive Life, Northern Ireland's only dedicated charity working to support people diagnosed with HIV; and agrees to support this organisation in the development of a centre of excellence at its new headquarters."

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


- h) Progressive Taxation System

Proposed by Councillor Collins,  
Seconded by Councillor Milne,

"This Council notes the recent revelations surrounding the 'Paradise papers', which exposed the extent to which some of the richest sections of society continue to avoid paying taxes. The Council is outraged at this practice and views it as economic injustice. Moreover, the Council is deeply concerned with plans to lower corporation tax as indicated in the Fresh Start Agreement. The Council is opposed to any future plans to lower the rate of corporation tax in the North, and instead calls for a more progressive taxation system which would better fund public services."

**(To be debated by the Council)**

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

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

Chief Executive

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## **Council**

### MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 1st November, 2017  
at 6.00 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, McKee, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Bunting, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

#### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman R. Patterson and Councillors Boyle and Howard.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Kingston declared an interest whilst the minute of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee under the heading "City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City's Growing Tourism Infrastructure" was being discussed, in that he was on the Board of the Argyle Business Centre, which was associated with the Shankill Mission hotel development project, and took no part in the discussion.

#### **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 2nd October and the special meeting of the Council of 2nd October be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st November, 2017**

**Official Announcements**

**New Member of the Council**

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Órla Nic Biorna, who had replaced former Councillor Austin, to her first meeting of the Council.

**Congratulations**

At the request of Councillor Magennis, the Council agreed that the Lord Mayor forward to Katie Taylor a letter congratulating her on her recent success in becoming the WBA Lightweight boxing champion of the world.

**Request to Address the Council**

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Ms. E. O'Keefe, the Chairperson of the Council's Youth Forum, seeking approval for two young people to address the Council in advance of the motion on voting rights for sixteen year olds which Councillor O'Hara would be proposing later in the meeting.

The Council acceded to the request and Ms. Megan McConnell and Ms. Tara Grace Connolly, representing the Council's Youth Forum and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum respectively, were welcomed to the meeting.

Ms. McConnell informed the Council that both the Council's Youth Forum and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum played an active role in highlighting issues such as poverty, homelessness, mental health, marriage equality and Irish language rights. She pointed out that young people had demonstrated continually that they were competent and capable of contributing effectively to society, yet they had no input into the electoral process, which often dictated the course of their lives.

Ms. Connolly explained that a sixteen-year-old person could, for example, marry, work, pay taxes, join the Armed Forces and consent to life altering medical treatment but, importantly, they were unable to vote. She referred to the fact that the majority of sixteen and seventeen year olds had been in favour of remaining within the European Union and that research had indicated that, had they been entitled to vote, that would have been reflected within the Referendum result. She added that, despite the fact that the Northern Ireland Assembly had, on 6th November, 2012, extended voting rights to sixteen year olds, that had yet to be implemented and urged Political Parties to call upon the Secretary of State and the Government to progress the issue.

Ms. Connolly and Ms. McConnell were thanked by the Lord Mayor and they retired from the meeting.

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



**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st November, 2017**

**Change of Membership on Outside Body**

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Ulster Unionist Party indicating that it wished to replace Alderman Rodgers with the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland, on the Grand Opera House Trust.

The Council approved the change.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hargey,  
Seconded by Alderman Convery,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October, omitting the decision under the heading "City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City's Growing Tourism Infrastructure", which, in accordance with Standing Order 47 and Section 41(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, has been called-in, be approved and adopted.

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

**Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary/Birthday Events**

Councillor Beattie requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute of the meeting under the heading "Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary/Birthday Events" being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

**Amendment**

**Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary/Birthday Events**

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Corr,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October, under the heading "Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary/Birthday Events", be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st November, 2017**

<b><u>For 24</u></b>	<b><u>Against 32</u></b>
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McVeigh, Milne, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O' Hara and Walsh.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Mullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Neill and Reynolds.

**Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October were thereupon approved and adopted.

**People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Alderman Sandford,  
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 10th and 18th October be approved and adopted.

**Anti-Social Behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces**

At the request of Councillor Bunting, the Chief Executive confirmed that the report on the additional preventative measures which could be implemented in the Council's parks to address anti-social behaviour, which the Committee, at the special meeting on 18th October, had agreed would be submitted to a future meeting, should examine the potential for undertaking an advertising campaign to raise awareness amongst parents of the need to monitor the whereabouts of their children at all times.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meetings of the People and Communities Committee of 10th and 18th October were approved and adopted.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 11th October be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st November, 2017**

**Licensing Committee**

Moved by Alderman Spence,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 18th October, 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 17th October, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Notices of Motion**

(The Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, left the Chamber whilst the first motion was being discussed and was replaced by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland.)

**Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds**

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna.

On a recorded vote, thirty-nine Members voted for the motion and thirteen against and it was declared carried.

<b><u>For 39</u></b>	<b><u>Against 13</u></b>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, Newton and Reynolds.

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st November, 2017**

**Universal Credit**

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

During his speech, the proposer, Councillor Attwood, requested that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the possibility of the Council developing a Universal Credit plan, in order to direct people to organisations providing support services such as advice, food banks, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, housing rights, debt advice and employment and training.

The Council agreed to this course of action.

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to the effect that the Council would seek a meeting also with the Secretary of State.

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

**Belfast Energy Transition Strategy**

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

“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.”

**Meeting of Council,  
Wednesday, 1st November, 2017**

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

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

**EU Single Market**

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

On a recorded vote, twenty-eight Members voted for the motion and seventeen against, with one 'no vote', and it was declared carried.

<b><u>For 28</u></b>	<b><u>Against 17</u></b>	<b><u>No Vote 1</u></b>
Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Newton and Reynolds.	Councillor Collins

The Chief Executive confirmed that the correspondence which had been received in response to a request within Councillor McAteer's motion, which had been passed by the Council on 1st June, to meet with the President of the European Commission, the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach to press the case for special designated status for Northern Ireland, would be circulated to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in advance of its special meeting on 21st November on Brexit.

**Minibus Driver Licensing**

At the request of Councillor Reynolds, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the motion standing in his name be withdrawn from the agenda.

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

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## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 24th November, 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, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh  
O'Neill, and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillor Mullan.

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

#### Apologies

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

#### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.

#### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### Restricted Items

**The information contained in the following eight 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, 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.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 24th November, 2017**

**District Rate and Revenue Estimates 2018/2019**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development of the revenue estimates for 2018/19 and the key issues which Members needed to consider as part of the rates settlement process.

The Committee noted:

1. The update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate; and
2. That party group briefings had been arranged for the week beginning 27th November, 2017, with a further report on the setting of the district rate being submitted to the Committee at its meeting of 15th December, 2017.

**Finance Reporting – Quarter 2 2017/18**

The Committee agreed that the Quarter 2 Finance report be considered in conjunction with the following reports insofar as it related to the financial implications and proposed reallocations contained therein:

- 2c European Capital of Culture 2023 – Phase 2
- 2g The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Update
- 5a City Region Growth Deal – Update
- 5b Update on the Smart Belfast Programme
- 5c Corporate Approach to Customer Focus

The Committee was advised that the year-end forecast was a net year end underspend of £662k which represented a variance of 0.5% of the annual net expenditure budget. The District Rate forecast by Land and Property Services (LPS) was a favourable outturn of £1,139k, which was a slight increase on the Quarter 1 forecast. Slippage in the capital programme meant that the capital finance budget was forecast to be underspent by £2,090k.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, given that the year-end department underspend was within 0.5% of the approved budget, it was not proposed that that should be considered for re-allocation. However, the forecast rates finalisation of £1,139k and the forecast capital financing underspend of £2,090k might be considered for re-allocation to non-recurrent expenditure by the Committee. After discussion the Committee:

- Agreed the forecast departmental underspend should not be considered for re-allocation given that that represented only 0.5% of net expenditure;
- Noted that the previously approved re-allocation for the Decade of Centenaries (£16,000) and The Mac (£40,000) would be funded from the half year re-allocations; and
- Agreed the following re-allocation from the forecast positive rates finalisation and capital financing underspend:



**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 24th November, 2017**

**Items Referred from the City and Growth Committee:**

• Féile	£180,000
• Other Voices	£40,000
• Gradam Caoil	£50,000
• Eastside Arts Festival	£40,000
• CS Lewis Festival	£40,000
• Belfast Tattoo	£25,000
• First World War Centenary Event	£35,000
• Every Day Remembered	£138,840

**Additional Funding Request:**

• The Mac (2017/18 and 2018/19)	£75,000
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**Corporate Plan Priorities**

• Corporate Customer Focus Project	£500,000
• General Data Protection Regulations	£51,000

**Belfast Agenda Priorities**

• European Capital of Culture Bid (Stage 2)	£797,790
• Smart Cities	£455,000
• City Deal	£500,000

**European Capital of Culture 2023 – Phase 2**

The Chief Executive submitted a report providing an update on the development of the bid for UK designated city for European Culture in 2023 (ECoC 2023), which outlined the key focus of activity in stage two and associated resource considerations.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that she would address, later in the meeting, the announcement by the European Commission on the eligibility of the UK as a host region after it leaves the EU and requested the Committee to consider the report outside of that process.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 24th November, 2017**

After discussion, the Committee

- noted that it had agreed earlier in the meeting that £797,790 be allocated on a non-recurring basis to support the development of the stage two programme as part of the half year finance report, and, following the announcement by the European Commission which shed doubt on the eligibility of the UK as a host region after it leaves the EU, agreed that, if the second stage of the process does not proceed as originally planned, a further report be submitted to a future meeting to consider the application of these finances; and
- noted that the Committee would consider, as part of the 2018/19 rate setting process, a potential growth proposal of 0.25% for the European Capital of Culture 2023.

**Announcement by the European Commission**

The Chief Executive referred to the announcement by the European Commission in relation to the eligibility of the UK as a host region after it leaves the EU. She outlined what actions had been taken since the announcement and a proposed series of next steps.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, following the Commission's announcement, to approve the next steps, that is, to engage with Northern Ireland's three MEPs and the four Belfast MPs; to seek a meeting with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; and seek a meeting with the European Commission.

**Enhanced Security Precautions**

The Committee considered a report which provided details of the findings of a recent threat and risk assessment which had been carried out under the auspices of the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy Office (NaCTSO) in respect of the City Hall and other principle city centre Council buildings.

The Committee:

- (a) Endorsed the findings of the recent NaCTSO review as set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report and agreed that Party briefings be held on the details of the review;
- (b) Approved the series of recommended actions as set out at paragraph 3.6, and the creation of a capital fund to defray the costs of doing so; and
- (c) Endorsed the application of the general principles set out in Appendix 1 to the report for all council event organisers.

**Changes to Current Catering Arrangements**

The Committee deferred again for a period of one month consideration of a report in relation to changes to the current catering arrangements.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 24th November, 2017**

**Update on City Hall Exhibition**

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to create a new Reception area on the main marble area of the City Hall entrance hall. The Committee was reminded that a report had been tabled at the Committee's meeting on 20th October, 2017. However, the report had been deferred in order to permit the various Parties to receive briefings on the issues raised. Those briefings had occurred during late October, 2017 for those who had requested them and a report was being presented for the Committee's final decision.

The Committee:

- (a) agreed to proceed with the creation of a new Reception facility on the main marble floor area in the same location as previously proposed;
- (b) agreed that such a facility would be a single, integrated facility; and
- (c) granted approval to begin a consultative dialogue with affected staff.

**The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Update Report**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current situation with regards to The MAC and advised of a further funding proposal which had been received from the The MAC in order to support that organisation's short-term sustainability.

The Committee:

- noted the current position of The MAC
- noted that a contribution of £75,000 towards The MAC's operating budget for 2017 – 18/2018 -19, subject to The Arts Council for Northern Ireland/Department for Communities confirming their financial contribution, in line with the detailed business case, had been considered and approved earlier in the meeting; and
- agreed that an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Communities and the Arts Council NI be held with Party Group Leaders.

**Freedom of the City - Sir Kenneth Brannagh**

The Committee approved the arrangements to celebrate the conferment of the Freedom of the City on Sir Kenneth Brannagh and the budget of to up to £30,000.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion**

**Notice of Motion - Belfast Energy Transition Strategy**

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed to defer consideration of the matter until the Commissioner for Resilience had been appointed.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
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**Notice of Motion - Party Leaders' Forum**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th September, had considered the following notice of motion which had been proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

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

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

In order to assist the Committee considered the matter, the following information in relation to the background to the establishment of the Party Leaders' Forum was submitted:

- In the previous Council, prior to the local elections in 2014, the Council had agreed to establish a Party Leaders' Forum to allow space for Party leaders to discuss difficult or contentious issues without Council officers routinely being present. As such, those meetings were facilitated by Jonathon Huish and officers were asked to attend parts of the meeting when specific issues pertinent to their remit were to be discussed. A short note of those meetings was reported to the Committee for information.
- The Committee, at its meeting on 22nd August, 2014, had agreed to re-establish a number of Working Groups for the new Council and these included the Party Leaders' Forum and the Budget and Transformation Panel. The rationale for appointing the two Groups was that the Budget and Transformation Panel was exclusively a business meeting when Chief Officers would bring draft reports to the Panel's attention prior to them being submitted to the Committee, whereas the Party Leaders Forum was to provide a space for Party leaders to discuss more contentious matters and seek to come to accommodations where there was disagreement.
- It was always understood, as with all Working Groups, that neither the Budget and Transformation Panel nor the Party Leaders' Forum were decision-making bodies and all decisions were required to be taken by a Standing Committee and (except where the Committee had full delegated authority) ratified by full Council.

Currently, there were officers present at meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel and a minute was taken of the meeting and presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Since Jonathon Huish no longer provided the administrative support to the Party Leaders' Forum, there was not any officer tasked with attending those meetings and taking a minute of the discussions. Therefore, there was not any report of those discussions included on the agenda of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

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The Committee was advised that it would appear that there were essentially two options open to it in deciding how best to proceed:

1. Accept that the Party Leaders' Forum was primarily established to allow Party Leaders' to discuss issues in confidence without any officers present. The meetings would therefore continue without a minute being taken and there would not be any report on the discussions submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; or
2. Agree that an officer would be present at the meetings of the Party Leaders' Forum for the purpose of producing a short note or minute of the discussions which would then be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in the same way that the meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel are treated.

The Committee agreed that a minute of the proceedings of the Party Leaders' Forum be recorded only for those items which resulted in a recommendation going forward to a Standing Committee for decision and that an officer be in attendance for that purpose.

**Notice of Motion - Response re; Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd October, had passed the following motion on the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Councillor Boyle:

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

The Committee was advised that a response had now been received from Mr. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education. The Permanent Secretary had confirmed that, in July, the Department of Education had informed the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Irish Football Association that funding for the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme would cease on 31st October. He pointed out that the Department had since secured an additional £10 million in the latest Monitoring Round, which would allow the programme to be delivered until the end of 2017/2018 financial year. However, he stressed that due to budgetary pressure, it might not be in a position to fund the initiative in future years.

He had highlighted the fact that a key objective of the Curriculum Sports Programme was to provide support to primary school teachers in delivering Physical Education.

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Those schools which had participated in the initiative had been allocated coaches, on the understanding that the class teacher would be present, primarily to assist in delivering the sessions and to support their own knowledge and development. Overall, teachers had benefited from their involvement in the programme over ten years and their skills and confidence should have improved significantly.

The Permanent Secretary had concluded by suggesting that, since the funding from the Curriculum Sports Programme had been restored for the current financial year, the rationale for holding the meeting, as requested with the motion, no longer existed and he sought the Council's view in that regard.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Mullan, in whose name the motion had been submitted, addressed the Committee. She pointed out that the Permanent Secretary had not addressed the second part of the motion in relation to concern about the cut being made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut off £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school and requested that the Committee proceed with seeking a meeting with the Permanent Secretary.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

**Notice of Motion - Tourism Offer in Belfast**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of The Report**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on a Notice of Motion, moved by Councillor McVeigh, regarding the importance of tourism to the City's economy and the need to modernise the current licensing regimes.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the contents of the draft consultation document which outlines the purpose of the engagement exercise and a proposed questionnaire.**
- Provide approval for officers to carry out an engagement exercise with representatives from the local tourism and hospitality sector, licensing industry, statutory bodies and the general public over the twelve-week period on the basis set out in Appendix 2.**

**2.2 Feedback from this engagement exercise will be used to inform and finalise a corporate position on the potential development of an entertainment complex (including a casino) in Belfast and extended opening hours for pubs and clubs in the city.**

**3.0 Background**

**3.1 Councillor McVeigh moved this Motion at Council on 1 November 2016. After discussion at the City Growth and Regeneration committee on 9 November 2016 it was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting to include information on:**

- the proposal of undertaking a public consultation to ascertain whether the citizens of Belfast wish to see the modernisation of licensing laws and opening hours in Northern Ireland, and the development of an Entertainment and Casino Complex within Belfast, with associated costings;
- the suggested parameters and mechanisms which would be used for such a public consultation; and
- related issues which have already been subject to public consultation by other government departments, including timescales and any conclusions arising from them.

**3.2 In the Motion Councillor McVeigh suggests a modernised licensing system and the development of an Entertainment and Casino Complex would provide stimulus and support to the tourism sector and City's economy, with a potential investment of £150 million and the creation of 900 new jobs.**

**3.3 This work is being taken forward in partnership between the Development Department, Planning and Place and Legal Services with informative reports to be taken to the City Growth and Regeneration and Licensing committees, once the engagement exercise has taken place.**

**3.4 The outcome of the public consultation will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration to determine a corporate position in relation to the development of an entertainment and casino complex and extended licensing hours in Belfast. Any outcome may then be provided to the Department for Communities (DfC) for consideration.**

**Key Issues**

**Modernising Licensing Legislation**

**3.5 The current legislation relating to gambling, entertainment and liquor licensing is the responsibility of the DfC.**

3.6 In recent years, the DfC has conducted several reviews in relation to the need for modernisation of the law in areas such as gambling, liquor licensing and entertainments licensing. However, these reviews have not yet resulted in new primary legislation in any of these areas. The current licensing system in Northern Ireland is governed by:

- Gambling – The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- (NB Current gambling legislation does not allow for Casinos)
- Entertainments Licensing – The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- Liquor Licensing – The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

3.7 In relation to these reviews the Council has generally responded on the basis that the current licensing systems need modernised.

3.8 Consultation on the Future Regulation of Gambling in Northern Ireland was carried out in 2011. This consultation was wide ranging in its scope and lacked detailed proposals which the Council could comment upon. Our response made it clear that the Council was mindful of its responsibilities in contributing to a vibrant City and that the gambling industry has a role to play within the leisure Industry in Northern Ireland but that this was balanced with a need to ensure that proper safeguards are in place to keep crime out of gambling and to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

The most recent consultation on liquor licensing was contained in the Licensing Bill 2016 and the Council response was broadly supportive of proposals for additional opening hours and noted the importance of restaurants, pubs and clubs to the vibrancy and tourism offer and night-time economy of Belfast.

3.9 A comprehensive review of Entertainments Licensing legislation was undertaken in 2015 and we await publication of detailed proposals from DfC which will be the subject of a public consultation in due course.

#### Consultation Next Steps

#### Citizen Engagement

3.10 A key facet of this Motion includes the direct engagement with the citizens of Belfast to determine if there is support for



modernising licensing laws and for the development of an Entertainment and Casino complex in Belfast.

- 3.11 The results of the engagement exercise will provide useful feedback for the Council and the exercise can also be used to ascertain if our citizens wish the Council to lobby for devolved decision-making powers in relation to opening hours for restaurants, pubs and clubs within Belfast.

**Engagement Exercise**

- 3.12 Subject to approval by Members, officers intend to launch a twelve-week public engagement exercise, with particular focus on representatives from within the city's tourism and hospitality sector and licensing community. This engagement exercise will be conducted on our Citizen Space engagement platform.
- 3.13 Council officers will also engage directly with a range of organisations including BCCM, FRLT, Visit Belfast, Belfast Chamber, Translink, PSNI and Tourism NI.
- 3.14 All responses will be collated and analysed by officers with a subsequent report brought back to the B&TP and other relevant committees for consideration. Based on the summary analysis members can then determine how best the Council presents its findings to the DfC and the Assembly.

The draft consultation document provided at Appendix 2 outlines the purpose of the engagement exercise and a proposed questionnaire.

3.15 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no Financial and Human Resource implications attached to this report.

3.16 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

As with any other policy development, any such proposals which results in the modernisation of the current licensing system will require formal Equality Screening. However, this will be conducted by the DfC as the department responsible for developing new policy and legislation in this area.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**Governance**

**Schedule of Meetings 2018**

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee during 2018 at a commencement time of 9.30am:

Friday, 5th January \* and Friday 19th January

\*Please note: That the first meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 5th January is to discuss the District Rate for 2017/18

Friday, 16th February  
Friday, 23rd March  
Friday, 20th April  
Friday, 18th May  
Friday, 22nd June  
No meeting in July  
Friday, 17th August  
Friday, 21st September  
Friday, 19th October  
Friday, 16th November  
Friday, 14th December

**Council Meeting Dates in January and April 2018**

The Committee agreed, due to the Christmas and Easter holiday periods, that:

- The date of the January meeting of the Council move from Tuesday, 2nd January to Wednesday, 3rd January; and
- The date of the April meeting of the Council move from Wednesday, 4th April to Monday, 9th April.

**Appointment of Members to South Belfast Partnership Board**

The Committee was reminded that, in May, 2015, the Council had appointed eight representatives from the Balmoral and Botanic District Electoral Areas using the Quota Greatest Remainder method of proportionality to the South Belfast Partnership Board. That had resulted in a representation of 2 Sinn Fein, 2 DUP, 2 Alliance, 1 SDLP and 1 UUP representative.

Correspondence had been received from the South Belfast Partnership Board indicating that it has recently reviewed its Strategic Plan resulting in a decision to reduce the number of Board members from the current level of 20 (8 Community, 8 Political and 4 Private Sector) to 15 (5 Community, 5 Political and 5 Private Sector). Accordingly, the Board had requested that the Council reduce its current representation from 8 to 5.

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In accordance with the agreed mechanism established in 2015 of using the Quota Greatest Remainder method for appointment to the Board, this would give the following representation:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Number of Members Balmoral/Botanic DEAs</b>	<b>Representation</b>
SF	2	(1.0) 1
DUP	2	(1.0) 1
ALL	2	(1.0) 1
SDLP	2	(1.0) 1
UUP	2	(1.0) 1
	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>

The Committee agreed to appoint the five Members to the Board as set out above.

**Nominations for Consideration for Appointment  
to the Position of High Sheriff**

The Committee considered a report which sought authority for the establishment of a deadline by which the Nominating Officer of the Political Party entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff must make the nomination.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting in September, it had adopted a policy to apply the D'hondt proportionality method in order to identify the Parties that would be entitled to nominate a person to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff.

The D'hondt methodology was simply a mathematical formula used to allocate places between Parties based upon their strength on an organisation. One of the features of the D'hondt system was that a deadline was established by which a Party entitled to a place must nominate or else a choice falls to the Party with the next highest score on the D'hondt table. The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 at part 1 of Schedule 1 deals with the allocation of Positions of Responsibility using the D'Hondt method. At sub-paragraph 3 of that Part of the Schedule it states that:

*"If –*

- (a) The nominated officer does not exercise any function conferred by sub-paragraph (1) or (2) within a period specified in Standing Orders; or*
- (b) The person nominated under sub-paragraph (2) does not take up the selected position of responsibility with that period;*

*That function becomes exercisable by the nominating officer of the party for which the formula in paragraph 3 gives the next highest total"*

The Council's Standing Orders, at Standing Order 34, does establish time limits for Nominating Officers to nominate a Member of their Party when allocating Positions of Responsibility at the first annual Council meeting following a local election. That limit is 15 minutes.

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The office of High Sheriff is not a Position of responsibility and therefore the provisions set out above do not automatically apply. However, it was considered that it would be necessary for the Committee to establish its own deadline in order for the D'hondt process to operate properly.

The Committee was advised that the Council was normally written to by the Northern Ireland Office in October asking it to submit the names of the persons for consideration for appointment. Therefore, in order to allow Parties sufficient time to consider who they wished to nominate when it was their turn under the D'Hondt system, it was recommended that the deadline be set at 6.00pm on the day of the November Council meeting. For this year, given that the Committee decision would not be ratified until the Council meeting on 4th December, it was recommended that the deadline be set at 6.00pm on 5th December.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**National Association of Councillors –  
Attendance at National Executive Meetings**

The Committee was reminded that it had eight Members on the National Association of Councillors – Northern Ireland Region. Alderman Sandford had been appointed to represent the Northern Ireland Region on the National Executive, which would require attendance at a number of meetings in 2018. The meetings were scheduled to be held on 15th January, 21st May and 10th September in London and 24th November in a venue to be confirmed.

The Committee approved the attendance of Alderman Sandford at the meetings of the National Executive of the National Association of Councillors and authorised the payment of the appropriate travel and subsistence allowances.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**City Region Growth Deal – update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To update Committee on next steps on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal including the allocation of resources and a proposed visit from Sajid Javid Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- **note the next steps in the development of the Belfast City Region Deal**

- note that committee will consider as part of the revenue estimates report for 2018-19 a growth proposal of £1,000,000 of capital financing to support the delivery of BCC city region deal projects.
- Recommend that £500,000 is allocated on a non recurrent basis to support the development of the city region deal and considered as part of the half year finance report 2017 -18.
- Agree to the attendance of Party Group Leaders and the chair of SP&R at the meeting with SoS for Communities and Local Government on 7th December 2017.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Key Issues**

At its meeting in September, members the proposed geography for the Belfast City Region Deal, the overall objective of 'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'; and the key themes of Infrastructure, Innovation and Skills.

- 3.2** The other five councils that make up the city region have also received approval for the above and work is continuing on the development of an overall programme of work to ensure the region has the evidence base, information and emerging projects to make the best possible case for an overall programme that will support the city region's economy. Given the ambition for the deal is to secure between £700 k - £1b it is important that the overall ask is comprehensive and has sufficient level of detail to demonstrate the economic benefits. Learning from other councils has shown that this will build confidence with both central and regional government and secure a better overall deal. All the city region councils will therefore need to allocate a budget to help develop the proposition and in particular to support the areas outlined below.

#### **3.3 Policy Context**

Through the community planning process each council has developed a wealth of evidence for their own areas and the plans themselves outline key projects and programmes that focus on their specific needs. It is important that this evidence base is built up at a city region level so that we can identify those areas that will benefit most from collaborative working and will have the greatest impact on delivering the city region deal objective. It is also important to identify the regions contribution to the Programme for Government and the UK

and NI Industrial Strategies and as a first step towards this the City Region has commissioned the development of an Industrial Strategy. The out workings of this strategy will help focus on our emerging growth sectors and may lead to more specific detailed research. It will also complement work already ongoing in relation to Infrastructure and Digital / Smart Belfast.

- 3.4 A further key evidence piece is the requirement to access employability and skills intelligence to shape priorities and targeting of interventions. It is proposed the initial stage in the creation of this intelligence is to develop a localised skills barometer for the Belfast Region area. This will help to better inform, target and measure employability and skills interventions in the future. Further work on identifying programmes and specific interventions will also be required once the evidence base is developed.

3.5 Project Development

Through the Belfast Agenda the council has already identified an ambitious plan for the city and it is envisaged that the city deal will be one mechanism to help deliver the plan. As the evidence from the Industrial Strategy emerges it will be important to align and develop specific projects which could form part of the city deal proposition. Clearly only projects that demonstrate economic benefit and inclusive growth will be considered and therefore work will need to be undertaken to develop business cases on a project by project basis. It is envisaged that some projects such as Employability and Skills will be done on a regional basis, and therefore funding for its development will be done across the region, but others for example the Belfast Story will need to be done on an individual council basis and funded at a local level. The council will also be working with its partners, eg the universities on a number of innovation projects which again will require joint funding.

3.6 Programme Management

The development of a city deal requires us to not only work up individual projects and priorities but to develop a comprehensive 10 year programme of investment for the city region that ensures a geographic spread of benefits and supports ongoing partnership working across the region. To facilitate this appropriate governance and programme management structures need to be put in place.

- 3.7 As a first step a senior officials group has been set up with the 6 council Chief Executives and senior officials from DCLG,

HMT, NI Executive and NIO as well as programme management support from BCC including the Deputy Chief Executive who has been designated SRO for the overall deal. Senior Officers from BCC have been agreed as the key contacts with central government are now working on an ongoing basis with officials from DCLG on the development of the programme and it is anticipated that this will be a full time resource requirement going forward.

- 3.8 In addition, work streams across all the priorities are now being set up and will be co-ordinated by BCC through the overall programme. The council will also have to have appropriate officer representation on each group.

3.9 Governance

Decisions on the content of the emerging deal will be considered and agreed by the city region councils. However ongoing joint engagement across the six councils, the NI government departments, central government and city deal partners will also be critical and require officer support from all councils but again with a degree of co-ordination through BCC. As the detail of the deal emerges proposals for governance and programme management arrangements for the delivery of the deal will also need to be developed.

3.10 Financing the Delivery of the City Deal

Council is also working up a suite of proposed projects for inclusion in the overall city region deal. All city deals to date have required councils to make a financial contribution to the delivery of their own capital projects. At this stage there is no provision in the current capital financing budget for this and the council will need over the next few years to build a city deal fund. It is therefore recommended for 2018 -19 that an allocation of £1,000,000 is considered as part of the rate setting process.

3.11 Visit of SoS for Communities and Local Government

As highlighted the key central government partner in the development of city deals is DCLG and the SoS for Communities and Local Government would like to meet with politicians and partners to receive an update on progress. We are liaising with the NIO on the logistics and agenda for this visit but a date of 7th December 2017 has been agreed. As all of the six councils will be represented at the meeting it is recommended that, as at the previous joint city deal councillors meeting, Party Group Leaders and the Chair of SP&R represent Belfast City Council at the event.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

Exact costs for the development of specific areas of the city deal are still being developed but it is recommended that £500,000 is allocated to the development of the programme to cover strategy develop and research, provision of business cases for individual projects, financial and economic modelling, additional staff resources for programme and project management. In addition £1,000,000 of capital financing from 2018 -19 budget will be required to support the delivery of BCC city region deal projects.

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**To be considered in preparation of Belfast City Region Deal.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that it had agreed earlier in the meeting that £500,000 be allocated on a non-recurrent basis to support the development of the city region deal as part of the half year finance report 2017 – 18.

**Update on the Smart Belfast Programme**

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

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

**1.1 The first year of the Smart Belfast programme focused on successfully demonstrating the benefits of ‘smart’ technologies for both the Council and the wider city. The work resulted in a jointly agreed framework for urban innovation with our business and university partners; and the delivery of scalable projects that applied the concepts of the framework to real-world problems (one of which – the Business Rates Identification tool – has already generated substantial new recurring income for the Council).**

**1.2 This paper sets out recommendations for Members that aim to embed the Smart Belfast approach into mainstream programmes in order to generate innovative solutions to economic growth, city planning, and the Council’s commitment to service transformation.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- 1. Approve the proposed Smart Belfast programme for 2018/2019 and the associated costs.**



2. To note the update on the current work of 2017/2018 including the following individual items:
3. The closing of the Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge and the plan to bring an update on successful applications to Members in December 2017.
4. Note the opportunity to contribute to service or city challenge proposals for the LPWAN project. A draft challenge programme will be presented to Members in early 2018.
5. Note the planned opening date for the Immersive Tech hub of 28 November.
6. Agree that Belfast sign TM Forum's 'City as a Platform' manifesto
7. Note the development work on an all-island SBRI fund for 2018/2019 and to agree in principle to a £30,000 contribution from Belfast City Council. Proposals will be presented to Members for approval.
8. To agree to Council participation in the DIT trade mission to Dublin
9. Agree to the acceptance of a Maynooth University Phd placement with the Smart Belfast team.
10. Agree to the development of a proposal with BT on a local air quality monitoring pilot.
11. Agree to the development of Smart Belfast infrastructure pilot(s).

### 3.0 Main report

The Council's decision to invest in a Smart Cities programme is driven by three imperatives:

- Rapid technological change: Very low-cost cloud computing; ubiquitous mobile phone use; high speed internet; WiFi and Internet of Things networks; and advances in data modelling, analytics and artificial intelligence systems – together offer vastly different ways to effectively address the city's problems and the efficiently manage its services. However, to make the most of these advances the Council needs to co-opt the knowledge and creativity of our universities and local digital sector.
- City Growth Deal ambition: The economic growth and the productivity challenge at the heart of the City Region Deal, the emerging sub-regional industrial strategy and the Belfast Agenda, are all predicated on Belfast's ability to inculcate an innovation culture and to exploit data science and technologies. This will be true not only in terms of attracting inward investment and growing the indigenous digital SME sector, but for the success of the wider economy and public sector

service transformation. The Smart Belfast foundations are important elements in building the city's capacity in this regard.

- **Public sector service transformation challenge:** The Council is undergoing significant organisational re-design and is committed to citizen-centric services. The adoption of scalable, agile technologies – and an environment that can harness the wider innovation in our universities and SMEs - can assist the Council and wider public sector to design and deliver much more effective services, programmes and interventions. In order to do this the city needs to foster a creative partnership eco-system and a much stronger culture of public sector innovation.

#### **Proposed Smart Belfast programme 2018/2019**

3.2 Following extensive engagement with global digital partners, the local digital SME sector, universities and the public sector, the Smart Belfast framework was launched to 300 business representatives on 26 September 2017 at City Hall. The framework aims to marry the city's ambition to support its high-growth digital sector with a desire to bring commercial innovation to bear on urban challenges and public service transformation at three levels:

- **City and regional** – By, for example, informing the innovation and infrastructure elements of the City Region Deal; the Belfast Agenda; and Place Positioning particularly in supporting foreign direct investment, local entrepreneurs and high growth SME development under the 'Smart Belfast' rubric.
- **Organisational transformation** – informing Council service transformation by supporting the adoption of agile, user-centric design methodologies; innovative procurement (such as SBRI); and the application of data science and new technologies in service re-design.
- **Building the core foundations** – working with partners to put in place the underpinning foundations necessary for a Smart Belfast to operate over the longer term (including, for example, developing a city data platform, building skills in agile design).

3.3 The Smart Belfast team have identified a substantial programme of work for 2018/19 that is required to achieve this ambition. This includes:

- **Establishing a scalable city data platform and data development and assurance programme.** This resource is required to managed the substantial data being generated as part of the Smart Belfast work – and ensuring that it is available for appropriate re-use by services, businesses and universities. This will include ensuring GDPR privacy compliance.
- **An integrated Smart Belfast Challenge programme** that will include putting in place the management and resource requirements to deliver the following:
  - LPWAN city and regional challenge programme
  - 5G trails and testbeds
  - Full Fibre use cases
  - All-Ireland SBRI challenge programme
  - Immersive tech challenge programme
  - ‘In-house’ challenge fund for innovative service re-design
- **Promoting Smart Belfast:** The idea of a ‘Smart City’ is a hugely attractive proposition for investors, SMEs and individual entrepreneurs – and has been adopted by many places worldwide to articulate a shared ambition for innovation, growth and economic development. Belfast is well-placed to use its ‘Smart Belfast’ approach as part of its wider place positioning work to attract inward investment and also to showcase the best of the city’s SMEs and the cutting R&D work of our universities. It is proposed that the Smart Belfast presence is developed on the web and social media and a shared story in designed that can be adopted for investment opportunities (such as SXSW, MIPIM, China, Sister Cities, Smart Cities World Congress, etc.)
- **Develop the Belfast Digital strategy** – To work with city stakeholders to determine the long term infrastructure and skills investments required to support a twenty-first century knowledge economy.
- **Developing Smart Districts:** The development of ‘smart infrastructure’ is an important strand of work for any smart city. This is about ensuring that capital investments are future-proofed for new sensor and data technologies. Many building, open space and civil engineering projects now seek to embed low-cost sensor and data gathering technologies into their design in order to support better integrated whole-life management of infrastructure. This is often developed

at a 'smart district' level initially before being deployed across an entire city.

- As initial pilots for this concept, the Smart Belfast team are proposing to work with colleagues from City Centre Regeneration, City and Neighbourhood Services, and the Planning & Projects department to scope a number of opportunities in the city.
- These pilots would explore how smart city approaches could be incorporated into the design of projects to support successful outcomes. The learning from this pilot would then be transferable to future projects. There are a number large multi-national companies interested in the idea of a Smart Belfast district and the team will engage with them on potential co-investment opportunities.

#### **3.4 Update on the current Smart Belfast programme 2017/2018**

Alongside planning for the next financial year, the programme has a number of current and emerging opportunities:

#### **3.5 Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund**

Sixty-eight SMEs have submitted seventeen scoping proposals to the Smart Belfast Challenge Fund. Up to £25,000 will be available from Invest NI to support up to eight of these proposals which seek to explore innovation in tourism, public transport, active living, circular economy and managing the public estate. Successful SMEs will be notified by end November and their projects will commence as soon as they have signed contracts with Invest NI. Council officers will work with companies to understand and support the development of each proposal during an initial 6 to 9 months scoping phase. At the end of this phase, proposals which demonstrate strong business development propositions can apply for up to a further £170,000 from Invest NI. A future SPR report will provide information on the successful challenge proposals.

#### **3.6 'Internet of Things' network (LPWAN)**

Digital Catapult UK has now confirmed that the £100,000 Northern Ireland consortium bid to the Things Connected competition has been successful. The consortium, made up of Smart Belfast, Ulster University, Invest NI, Tourism NI and a number of other NI local councils, will provide a regional free-to-use LPWAN network. (This is a state-of-the-art wireless network that can control a vast range of low-cost sensors and smart devices. Such networks are an important building block for the Internet of Things - a recognised future growth area for

the digital and manufacturing sectors and for the future smart management urban infrastructure.)

- 3.7 The Catapult will fund the deployment of the network by February 2018. Partners, including Belfast City Council and Tourism NI, have agreed to contribute to a 'Things Connected' Challenge programme which would provide competition funding to local SMEs and communities to exploit the network to tackle local and regional challenges and to improve public sector services. (For example, such networks have been used elsewhere for such things as: asset tracking, fleet management, tracking tourist and shoppers' behaviours, interactive signage, building management, commuter and freight transport analysis, etc.)
- 3.8 The Smart Belfast team will work with private and public sector and including colleagues from across Council to determine a series of challenge and use-cases for which SMEs could use the network to develop solutions. Once agreed a draft challenge programme will be presented to Members.

**Immersive Tech hub at Bel Tel**

- 3.9 Following approval at the September SPR Committee, work is now underway to complete the fit-out of the Immersive Tech hub at the Bel Tel building. Once complete the Digital Catapult NI team will move into the hub as part of a wider plan to create a collaborative working environment that will also act as a showcase for cutting edge technologies developed in the city. The hub will also receive £70,000 of immersive tech equipment from Digital Catapult UK while the Department for the Economy are funding the appointment a full time hub and programme manager. The Lord Mayor will officially open the new hub on 28 November, the launch event will also be attended by Professor Sir Mark Walport, the Chief Executive Designate of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
- 3.10 The Smart Belfast team are now working with the Department for the Economy, the Council's own Economic Development Unit and the Digital Catapult to develop joint programmes of work on immersive technology. The first of these will be a £25,000 eight-week immersive technology challenge to encourage local SMEs to develop Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality proto-types to demonstrate the value of the technology to tourism, culture and arts in the city. This challenge is currently in development with our Tourism Unit and due to go live in November. It is expected that successful proto-types from the challenge will be used at SXSW in Austin in March 2018.

**3.11 TM Forum**

Belfast has been invited by TM Forum to become a co-signatory to their 'City as a Platform' manifesto that sets out ten symbolic principles for private and public sectors to adopt when deploying digital city platforms. Other signatories include 40 cities, government bodies, telecoms operators, technology firms and associations. (These include Dublin, Chicago, Leeds, Liverpool, Medellin, and the Future Cities Catapult.)

**3.12** The principles are aligned with the ambitions of the Smart Belfast framework and Members are asked to agree that Belfast sign the manifesto (see <https://www.tmforum.org/smart-city-forum/city-platform-manifesto/>)

**3.13** As part of Belfast's membership of the Forum, the city is entitled to consultancy support from a number of international platform partners as part of the Forum's 'Catalyst' programme. The Smart Belfast team have begun engaging with TM Forum's global lead, Carl Piva, on this, with initial suggestions that the focus might be on Belfast's future smart infrastructure requirements. A draft proposal will be brought to Members in early 2018.

**3.14 Irish Cities SBRI challenge**

Through the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, and working with the NI Department for Economy and Enterprise Ireland, the team are developing the content for a joint all-island SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) challenge fund. This will provide pre-commercial procurement R&D funding to innovative SMEs to address challenges common to cities across the island.

**3.15** Following a workshop on 18 October, Dublin, Derry & Strabane, Cork, Limerick and Belfast all expressed interest in funding such a challenge. Enterprise Ireland have informally indicated they would provide support funding with the possibility of €200,000 for an SBRI challenge addressing issues of common concern for three to four cities.

**3.16** The process of identifying common challenge areas with other cities is underway and cities have been requested to make a financial contribution. Smart Dublin is planning to invest €200,000 and Members are asked to agree in principle that Belfast City Council would provide £30,000 to a joint programme. Once agreed with the other cities, proposals for

the programme will be presented to Members for consideration.

**3.17 British Embassy Smart City Trade Mission**

The Department for International Trade's unit in the British Embassy in Dublin are co-ordinating a UK trade mission for London Smart Cities companies to showcase their products and services at the Mansion House in Dublin on 30 November.

**3.18** The Smart Belfast Portfolio manager has been asked to present on the Smart Belfast framework, an outline of the SBRI process and take part in a panel discussion. A Belfast SME has also been asked to take part in the event. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by DIT. Members are asked to agree to Council participation in the event.

**3.19 Financial & Resource Implications**

**1. Establish Scalable city Data Platform to support SMEs and range of projects underway Including independent assurance on Data Protection, Privacy and Security aspects.**

**£95,000**

**2. Integrated Smart Belfast Challenge fund** **£195,000**

- LPWAN city and regional challenges
- 5G trails and testbeds
- Full Fibre use cases
- All-Ireland SBRI challenge programme
- Immersive tech challenge programme
- 'In-house' challenge fund for innovative service re-design
- SBRI competition for Rates Forecasting
- Competition programme for Immersive Tech Hub
- Catalyst for change programme with TM Forum

**3. Promoting Smart Belfast and Engagement tools/programme for collaborative working with Public Sector SMEs and academia** **£30,000**

**4. Scoping exercise for Smart District(s)** **£30,000**

**5. Commission and Deploy Rates Maximisation product** **£40,000**

**6. Further development of the Growth Mapper – infrastructure tool** **£10,000**

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- 7. **University programme to support a data scientist to work with the team** £5,000
- 8. **Commission Belfast Digital Strategy** £50.00

**Proposed budget for 2018/2019** **£455,000**

Through collaborative working the programme will leverage in funding from Enterprise Ireland and Invest NI as well as income from the deployment from the rates maximisation project in the region of £400,000 together with a high level of in-kind support.

**3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that the budget of £455,000 as set out in paragraph 3.21 of the report had been approved earlier in the meeting as part of the half year finance report 2017 – 18.

**Corporate Approach to Customer Focus**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The City and Neighbourhood Services Department working alongside Corporate Organisational Development (OD) and Digital Services, have been working with Deloitte to develop an outline business case (OBC) to provide recommendations on implementing a new approach to customer focus.**

**1.2 This report outlines some of the critical challenges and key benefits of adopting a corporate customer focussed business strategy and summarises the key recommendations contained within the Deloitte OBC.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**The Committee is asked to agree the following recommendations:**



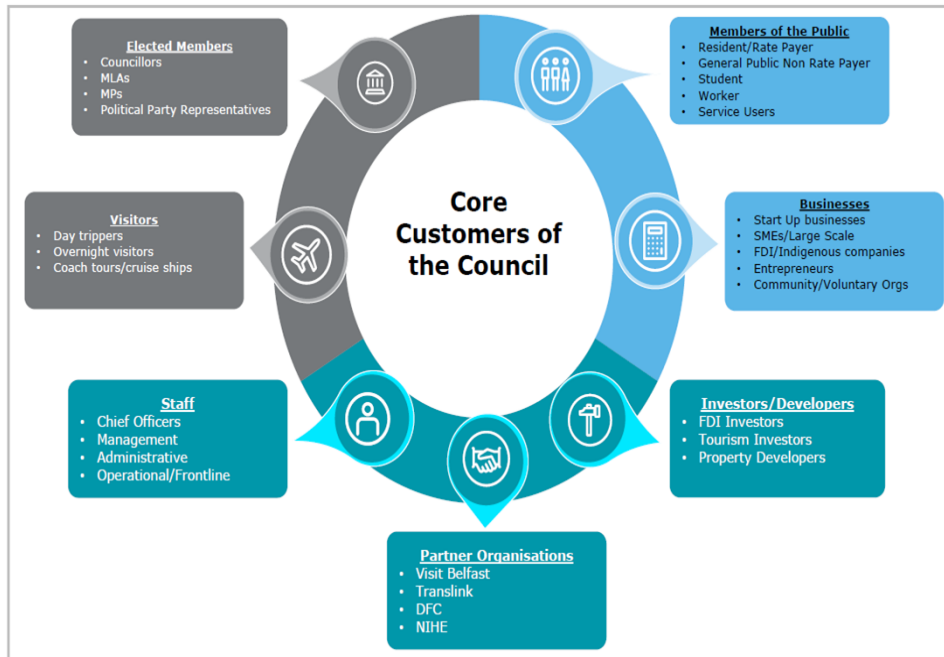
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1. That a corporate approach to customer management should be a key driver for on-going organisational change.
2. A new blueprint for customer services should be based on the following principles outlined in the Deloitte OBC (See Appendix 1):
  - a. Corporate approach, consistent and joined up and underpinned by standards,
  - b. Deliver greater insight and analysis on customer behaviour,
  - c. Improve the efficiency of processes,
  - d. Ensure inclusivity and channel choice (digital first where possible),
  - e. Improved customer experience (customer first),
  - f. Provide access to the right information at the right time and from anywhere.
3. A Customer Focus delivery team should be resourced to design and implement the best approach for the Council to deliver the recommendations contained in the Deloitte OBC.
4. A discovery/design exercise should be procured to determine the key tasks, costs and resources that will be required to deliver a corporate approach to Customer Focus.
5. On-going engagement with Trade Unions should continue due to the corporate nature of the customer focus programme.
6. Agree to allocate £500,000 to support the further development and implementation of this work.

**3.0 Main report**

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- 3.1 One of the key ambitions of the Belfast Agenda is, ‘to deliver services differently, in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of people.’ However, the current approach to customer management does not avail of the latest technologies which can drive better customer service and



improve service delivery for the variety of customers which the council serve. These are listed below.

- 3.2 The OBC has shown that our current approach is inefficient as outlined below:
- 130 different numbers are returned in a search for ‘Belfast City Council’ from [www.ukphonebook.com](http://www.ukphonebook.com),
  - We support over 700 Direct Dial-in (DDI) telephone numbers,
  - Multiple customer contact options (email and phone) are available on our website. See <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/A-Z/AtoZListing.aspx?atoz=A>,
  - We have 12 core CRM systems installed across the council and we have recently implemented an additional interim CRM for Planning,
  - We support an ICT inventory of over 90 different applications with customer information recorded across a significant number of these applications.
- 3.3 Also, given the scale of customer contact received by BCC (see Appendix 2), it is obvious that a customer focussed business strategy has the potential to significantly improve

the quality of the services we provide, while substantially reducing the costs of service delivery. This will help us to:

- Enhance our customer focus,
- Join up the fragmented nature of our service delivery,
- Better understand the cost of service delivery,
- Improve officer productivity,
- Realise efficiency savings for the organisation,
- Provide services that are optimised and provide VFM,
- Integrate our front and back office functions,
- Provide customer insight to improve decision making,
- Ensure services are delivered over the most cost effective channels,
- And streamline and reduce the resources required to deliver our services.

**3.4 To deliver the Deloitte customer focussed blueprint Members are asked to consider these key emerging challenges:**

1. The creation of a corporate Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to deliver the centralisation of all customer interactions across the council which will enable analytics that covers the end-to-end customer journey.
2. The creation of a Corporate contact Centre implementing and working towards a single email account and telephone number for all customer contact.
3. Building a consistent multichannel experience based on customer insight.
4. Redesigning all customer-facing processes to integrate front and back office processes, beginning with services that represent the bulk of interactions and the greatest amount of current pain points for citizens, to:
  - a. Deliver customer centric processes
  - b. Maximise first contact resolution and reduce avoidable contact.
5. Managing the development of all council staff to handle all contacts, across all channels, in a consistent and professional manner.
6. Undertaking a website review and redesign to:
  - c. Deliver a simpler and clearer layout
  - d. Cleaner navigation
  - e. Rationalise web content
  - f. Implement consistent and usable responsive online services.

**3.5 The significance of changing our current customer services operating model and implementing a corporate customer focussed business strategy should not be underestimated, and successful delivery of a customer strategy in BCC will present challenges which include ensuring political and chief officer support, managing change and user adoption, and improving service standards while capturing and delivering efficiencies. For this reason, one of the key recommendations from the Customer Focus OBC is to initiate and to deliver a Discovery/Design Exercise that will determine how the new approach to customer focus will be delivered by building:**

- **A vision for Customer Focus**
- **Benefits Management**
- **Marketing, communications and engagement**
- **Technology change**
  - **Corporate CRM**
  - **ICT system rationalisation**
  - **Customer Contact Website**
  - **New Digital Services**

**3.6 Financial & Resource Implications**

The total resources required are £500,000 which will be considered by the committee as a reallocation as part of the Quarter 2 finance report.

**Customer Focus Delivery**

Customer Focus Discovery and Design exercise	£200,000
Temporary Delivery Team	£300,000
	<b><u>Total £500,000</u></b>

**3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that it had agreed earlier in the meeting, as part of the half year finance report 2017 – 18, to allocate £500,000 to support the further development and implementation of this work.

**LPS Contract – Provision of Property Surveys**

The Committee was reminded that the Building Control Service had been working in partnership with Land and Property Services (LPS) in a number of areas for over

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15 years. Since April 2005, the Service had been providing Property Surveys for LPS under a contract signed at that time.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, as Building Control Surveyors were on site during construction, they could carry out their survey at the time the properties were ready for occupation without the need for LPS staff to visit the site, to gather the information and allowing them to value the properties from the desktop. That ensured an efficient method of timely and equitable maintenance of the valuation list. He reported that LPS had been reviewing the contractual arrangement and, in consultation with officers from the Council, had amended the previous contract to reflect changes that had been made to working practices. LPS had made the request for the Council to enter into this new contact.

The main changes to the contract from the current arrangements were:

- The rate LPS would pay per survey be reduced from £65 to £55 from 1st April, 2018. That reflected the changes in the process which reduced the amount of time surveyors would spend on site gathering the information and increased the use of AutoCAD technicians;
- Full survey provision of extensions to commercial properties were now included;
- With the priority of getting new build properties on to the valuation list, the target to provide a survey within 20 working days from the date the property was fit for occupation had been retained. The target time to provide extended domestic surveys and extended commercial surveys had been set at 30 days.

The Legal Services Section had been consulted with regard to the contract and were satisfied with the content.

The Committee agreed to enter into the new contract which would run until 31st March, 2019.

### **Contracts for Award**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- **Seek approval from Members to the allow advancement and award of tenders as outlined in Appendix 1 (Tables 1-3) in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.**
- **Inform Members that procurement is undergoing a review of the current operating model with the potential of restructuring.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 It is recommended that Members:**

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- **Approve the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1 -Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system and grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to the most economically advantageous tender**
- **Allow month by month extensions where contracts are under review as outlined in Appendix 1 - Table 2**
- **Agree to accede to Standing Orders 55(a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts as laid out in 3.7 below and Appendix 1 – Table 3 (ICT projects)**
- **Note the contracts which have been awarded in the last quarter as listed in Appendix 1 -Table 4**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1 Section 2.5 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation outlines that under Standing Order 60(a) any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) needs to be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.**
- 3.2 The tenders submitted for approval in Appendix 1 - Table 1, have been forwarded by Departments for approval. Departments have been required to provide assurance that provision for the expenditure has either been made within their departmental budgets or approval has been sought from the Director of Finance and Resources that this expenditure has been provided for within a corporate budget.**
- 3.3 Members should note that they are being asked to approve tenders in principal, after which the internal governance process demonstrating strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda, will be applied. As part of this process, Departments have also provided assurance that appropriate resources are available within their departments in order to effectively administer and management any contract(s).**
- 3.4 In accordance with Standing Orders these tenders shall comply with the relevant requirements of national legislation**

and European directives and be overseen by Corporate Procurement Services.

**3.5** This report relates to corporate as well as departmental supplies and services only. The procurement of services and works contracts relating to the capital procurement is dealt with under the Capital Programme reports in accordance with the approved stage approval process.

**3.6** **Direct Award Contracts**

Members are asked to note that Corporate Procurement Services is currently under resourced and awaiting a report on the current procurement operating model. This position has resulted in an increase in the number of single tender actions and the requirement to accede to Standing Order 55(a). It should be understood this is a temporary situation which will be rectified once the Procurement Team is fully resourced.

**3.7** Members are asked to accede to Standing Order 55(a) exceptions in relation to contract by direction of the council acting on a recommendation of a Chief officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the following:

- Appointment of 'Ulster University Economic Policy Centre' to develop a localised Skills Barometer & Labour Market Accounts for the Belfast and City Region Area on the basis that the Skills Barometer is the existing regional intelligence tool, developed to monitor skills demand and supply and time restraints. This will be associated with the development of the City Growth Deal which requires access to intelligence to inform priorities and programmes of work as a matter of urgency. The value of this contract is £52k.
- A number of ICT contracts can only be provided by individual suppliers see Appendix 1, Table 3. There are two main reasons for proprietary purchases of ICT contracts:
  - The ICT system or service is proprietary and cannot be provided by another supplier;
  - Legacy Technology Procurements involved the purchase of perpetual use rights alongside annual maintenance and support. Subsequent on-going maintenance and support can only be provided directly by the supplier.

- Appointment of 'Reed Midem' to provide stands for MIPIM. 'Reed Midem' are the event organiser for MIPIM and as such are the sole provider of stands at this event. The value of this contract is £50,290
- Appointment of 'Below the Radar' to develop video and visuals to support the formal presentation for the Capital of Culture presentation. The appointment is based on their ability to commit to delivery of video and visual content in a short timescale as well as the nature of their experience and quality of work which is in keeping with the emerging book content. The value of this contract is £30k
- Appointment of 'Mattijs Maussen' as adviser to support the delivery of the European Capital of Culture bid project. Mattijs Maussen has worked on fourteen capital-of-culture bids around Europe and acts as adviser and organiser in the fields of culture, education, urban and regional development across Europe. In addition, he has extensive experience with politicians, artists, researchers and the media, in the region, in Europe and internationally. The value of this contract is £80k

### 3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

- The financial resources for these contracts will be met within the current departmental budgets and the proposed departmental estimates process which are taken forward through the rate setting process with the exception of the contract as outlined in 3.7 in respect of the appointment of 'Ulster University Economic Policy Centre'. Members are asked to note that the financial resources for this contract will be met from income generated from Councils within the City Deal region and through Development Departments' existing resources. Each of the other five Councils forming the City Deal region have agreed to contribute £10k each to be held within a central funding pot, the work to be delivered by UUEPC will be one of the research pieces funded from this source.

### 3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations implications.”



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**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
European Capital of Culture Strategic European Adviser	Donal Durkan	One year

**Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and erection of street nameplates	Phil Williams	Month by month

**Table 3 – ICT Single Tender Action**

System/Product	Supplier	Reason	Annual estimate
Housing Benefits Software and support	Northgate	Maintenance & Support renewal	£230,000
Mapping Agreement LPS	LPS - Ordnance Survey	Proprietary	£75,000
Premier Support (Gold)	Microsoft	Proprietary	£52,000
Oracle Site Licence	Oracle	Proprietary	£38,000
COBOL Server Support	Micro Focus	Proprietary	£4,000
Oracle Database Processor Licenses	Oracle	Proprietary	£11,500
modern.gov	Modern Mindset Ltd	Maintenance & Support renewal	£7,500
Dimension S/W - Zoo, Cregagh, outdoor pitches	XN Leisure	Maintenance & Support renewal	£14,000
City Stats	Fluent Technology	Maintenance & Support renewal	£5,000
Heimdall Security Agent	Managed Security Solutions	Maintenance & Support renewal	£10,000
Media Core	Aetopia Limited	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
Cascade 3d Reporting Tool	Cascade	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,500
Kinetics	Kinetics Solutions	Maintenance & Support	£4,000

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		renewal	
Oracle Processor Perpetual (for DMZ)	ORACLE CORPORATION (U K)	Proprietary	£5,000
Chip & Pin - Daisy Chain Rental	XN Leisure	Maintenance & Support renewal	£5,000
UPS	Continu	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
SPSS	IBM	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
ODEX Enterprise AS2 Component	Data Interchange PLC	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
Jigsaw Fuel Management	Blenheim System Ltd (Jigsaw)	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,500
Visual COBOL for Visual Studio Support	Micro Focus	Proprietary	£4,000
Adobe VIP Agreement (Value Incentive Plan)	Specialist Computer Centre	Proprietary	£7,000
Browsealoud	Texthelp Business Systems	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
ECDL licence - Annual Subscription	British Computer Society	Proprietary	£3,000
Hevacomp	Bentley Hevacomp	Proprietary	£3,000
Joint Venture - Apple Business support	Apple	Proprietary	£3,000

**Table 4 – Contracts awarded August**

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Framework for Supply and Delivery of Fruit and Vegetables for Belfast Zoological Gardens	R Crozier	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	2 companies awarded: Arnotts Fruit Ltd, 16/20 Dunbar Street, Belfast First4fruit, Unit 3 Loguestown Industrial Estate, Coleraine
Supply and Delivery of Various Panel Vans	G Millar	N/A	Charles Hurst Peugeot, 62 Boucher Road, Belfast
Supply and Delivery of Precinct Sweepers	G Millar	N/A	Aebi Schmidt UK Ltd, Southgate Way, Orton Peterborough Cambridgeshire, England
Cleaning Services at St George's Market	D Durkin	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	GON Cleaning Services, 10 Cairnmore Drive Lisburn Antrim

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**Table 4 - Contracts awarded September**

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Provision of Mobile Video Screens and associated services	D Durkin	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	ADI TV Unit 10, Pittman Court Preston, Lancashire
Supply of General Uniforms	G Millar	1 year with option to renew annually for further 3 years	3 companies awarded; Antrim Supplies (Workwear) Ltd, 24 Mallusk Rd, Newtownabbey  Prosafe Products Ltd, 53 The Longshot, Ballyclare  Tailored Image Ltd, 8A The Linen Green, Dungannon BT71 7HB
Delivery of Export Development Support for High Growth Sectors	D Durkin	2 years with option to renew annually for further 1 year	Core Consulting, 39A Main Street, Bangor, Co Down BT20 5AF

**Table 4 – Contracts awarded October**

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Provision of Goods for Resale in Belfast Zoo Souvenir Shop	N Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	Keel Toys Barrey Road, Ashford KENT TN24 OSG  Ravensden Plc Bedford Road Rushden Northamptonshire NN10 0SQ  Kilbarrack Industrial Estate DUBLIN 5
Delivery of City Start-	D Durkin	1 year with option to	Enterprise NI Ltd

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up Programme		renew for further 6 months	Aghanloo Road Limavady BT49 0HE
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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Application of Standing Order 55(a)**

The Committee endorsed the application of Standing Order 55(a) – exemptions from Standing Orders relating to contracts by direction of the Council acting on a recommendation of the Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances – for the replacement of the current heating system as part of the 2017/18 planned maintenance programme at Smithfield Market.

**Innovation Factory – Contractual Amendment and Delegated Authority**

The Director of Development submitted for the Committees consideration the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 Oxford Innovation is the appointed Service Provider in respect of the management and operation of Innovation Factory (IF) in accordance with the contract agreed between Oxford Innovation (OI) and Belfast City Council dated 27 April 2017.**

**1.2 In light of the first contractual Annual Performance Review this Committee Report recommends a proposed legal amendment to the contract. The proposed amendment has been agreed in principle between both contract representatives and the Project Board.**

**1.3 The report also seeks Delegated Authority to be granted to the Director of Development who is Senior Responsible Officer for the project. Delegated Authority is for the approval of incentives at the centre which can help to attract more investment to the Innovation Factory and contribute towards the Council’s job creation and skills development objectives.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Approve the contract amendment to the OI and BCC contract for the Annual Performance Review Methodology for the Innovation Factory;**

- **Agree to assign Delegated Authority to the Director of Development for the approval of incentives to tenants for locating at the centre. Performance of incentives will be reported back to Committee via the Annual Service Plan and Performance Review.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 *Contract Amendment:***

**3.2 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. and is the first development on the wider 14-acre business park site which was previously the site of James Mackie and Sons Engineering Works. The project is part funded by Belfast City Council, Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland.**

**3.3 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.**

**3.4 The Innovation Factory has been performing well to date. Current occupancy stands at 22% and is expected to increase to 24% over the next month. IF currently supports 85 jobs with 5 support staff. The centre has facilitated 26 work placements to date, engaged with 4 local schools and engaged 18 students in research projects. 11 IF clients have been referred to Invest NI (INI) and are now full INI clients.**

**3.5 The Annual Performance Review 16/17 was carried out in close dialogue with both the service provider as well as a wider Council multi-disciplinary team and professional advisors KPMG. During this dialogue the service provider requested reconsideration of clause 5.2.2 of Schedule 6 Part 2 of the contract which relates to the annual performance and payment mechanism. The clause stipulates how the Council will award a final score for each of the four categories of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) (namely 1. Outputs, 2. Outcomes, 3. Service Performance and 4. Financial Performance). If the service provider falls short in any of the individual elements within the KPI category, it is reflected in the overall KPI score.**

- 3.6 A revised clause has been developed and agreed by Council and Oxford Innovation. Both parties feel that the revised clause ultimately provides a fairer performance review process. It includes the following aspects:
- The score awarded shall be based on a balanced, holistic view of the performance of the Service Provider;
  - The score awarded shall take account of the severity of any low scores; and
  - Scores awarded shall take account of the Service Provider's performance in respect of each Key Performance Indicator in the prior Contract Year and the Council's requirement, as set out in the Contract, for the Service Provider to deliver continuous improvement.
- 3.7 This amendment also provides 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 i.e. Health & Safety considerations. The change means that scores can be assessed more broadly rather than being dictated by the lowest scoring factor. It also means that scoring can reflect repeated instances of under-performance from one year to the next.
- 3.8 *Delegated Authority to Senior Responsible Officer:*
- 3.9 In partnership with Invest Northern Ireland, the contract representatives have developed a soft landing, ('plug and play') workspace option at IF. The benefit of being able to offer the 'plug and play' option is that it can be used as an incentive to attract new tenants. It creates a competitive offer to attract investment clients to Belfast over other locations. Potential users would be offered competitive, no cost, or discount options for a pre-agreed period. The incentive will be based on individual investor circumstances and the economic and social opportunities that the investment proposal may generate. Tenants will remain liable for their own rates. IF has furnished a 1852sq ft area to be used for the 'Plug and Play' suite. The scale of space needed for this service will be kept under review.
- 3.10 This approach is required due to the nature of investors' decision making. Investors do not always initially commit to a permanent investment location at an early stage. This option enables Council, in conjunction with Invest NI, to offer the investor an opportunity to assess Belfast as a suitable investment location. The incentive provides an added value

proposition alongside the Council's proposed Business Concierge Service. This service will provide further wrap-around support to secure investment on a more permanent basis. Any incentive offer will be agreed in collaboration with Invest Northern Ireland. It is recommended that any incentive offers such as the Plug and Play option detailed above will be presented to the Director of Development for delegated approval against a set of pre-agreed criteria.

**3.11 Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications arising from the amendment to the contract. Any incentives agreed by the Senior Responsible Officer relating to Innovation Factory will be factored into the Financial Model for the centre agreed as part of the Annual Service Plan for the next three year period.

**3.12 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

The Innovation Factory Project has been successfully 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.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Leisure Transformation Programme - Assets Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

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

**2.0 Recommendations**

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

*Programme level* – note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1-3.7 below:

**Project level**

- Whiterock – note the proposed closure of the pool during the month of December in order to facilitate

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urgent repair works and that a full continuity plan is underway (see 3.8-3.10)

- Church Lane – note that the new state of the art city centre gym at Church Lane is due to officially open on 12th December 2017 and that all Members have been invited to a pre-opening event on Wednesday 29th November (see 3.11-3.12)

**3.0 Main report**

**Programme level**

- 3.1 Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council’s £105m leisure programme which will ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below –**

<b>CENTRE</b>	<b>USP</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre completed. Works underway on outside phases. Due for completion May 2018
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Demolition works underway.
Robinson	Aquatic Centre	£20	Site works underway
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£15m	Works to commence in January
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Stage 2 consultation to be undertaken (see 3.3 below)
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Stage 2 consultation to be undertaken (see 3.3 below)
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

**3.2 Andersonstown and Robinson**

**Members are asked to note that demolition works are continuing at Andersonstown and are due to be completed early next year while site preparation works are currently**



underway at Robinson. ‘Cutting the sod’ ceremonies for both sites were held in early November and were extensively picked up by local media. Photos of both projects are attached at Appendix 1.

Members are asked to note that the temporary car park at Andersonstown is due for completion by the end of November.

**3.3 Templemore and Avoniel – Stage 2 consultation**

Regular communication and engagement is central to the success of the leisure programme. In June 2015 Members agreed that a three stage approach to consultation and engagement would be used for the capital redevelopment element of the LTP. In keeping with the approach to date it is now proposed that the Stage 2 consultation for Avoniel and Templemore is undertaken. Given the interdependencies between these projects it is proposed that this consultation is undertaken in tandem.

**3.4** Members are asked to note that a series of consultation events, as detailed below, have now been arranged as part of this Stage 2 consultation. The costs for this will be met from the £2m leisure mobilisation budget which was previously agreed by Committee.

- **East AWG** - A special East AWG on leisure, at which the Stage 2 designs will be presented, has been scheduled for 22nd November
- **Public information sessions** – a number of public information sessions on the plans for Avoniel and Templemore have been scheduled from 5th-6th December. During these sessions the concept designs for the two new facilities will be displayed and attendees will be given the opportunity to provide feedback. Details of these events have been published in advance including advertisements in local newspapers, posters and leaflets, social media and the Council website. See Appendix 2 for details.

**3.5** Other key stakeholders in each of the areas (i.e. East Belfast Partnership) alongside key user groups such as schools, clubs and community organisations will also be proactively targeted. The consultation plan has previously been presented to the Council’s Equality Forum and it is intended to continue to use this group to identify groups who may require specific workshops or alternative arrangements

**3.6** In addition the concept designs will also be presented on the new ‘Citizen Space’ online consultation platform. This will

ensure that those people who are unable or unwilling to attend one of the information sessions will still have the opportunity to provide feedback.

- 3.7 It is important however for Members to understand that there is very limited opportunity to amend the Stage 2 designs without having a significant impact on the budget and/or programme.

Project level

Whiterock

- 3.8 Members are asked to note that earlier this year a series of leaks from the pool at Whiterock were detected and an invasive structural report was undertaken to determine the cause of the leaks. This report has now been submitted to the Council and has identified that there is corrosion of the pool reinforcement as well as a number of identified leaks linked to the pool drainage channels that is contributing to the corrosion. The report recommended urgent remedial action is undertaken in order to mitigate against the risk of further damage and recommended that the following works are undertaken –

- Minor concrete repairs to the underside of the pool
- Relining of the entire pool drainage channel around the perimeter of the pool including 300mm of the pool bank and pool wall.

- 3.9 The report also recommended that the works are undertaken as quickly as possible to prevent the damage to the pool getting worse. Members are asked to note that it is proposed that these works are undertaken in December. However Members are asked to note that the scope of the works means that there is no alternative but to close the pool in order to facilitate the works and this will require the closure of the pool at Whiterock during the month of December.

- 3.10 It is appreciated that with any closure there will be an inconvenience for users however Members are asked to note that a full business continuity plan is in place for these works and all users have been communicated with since the end of October including swim schools, schools and clubs. Members are also asked to note that the seasonal drop off in usage in December will minimise the impact on users. During the closure period staff will be offered the chance to take leave or work shifts at alternative centres where suitable. Staffing levels will remain compliant with evacuations and operational requirements.

**Church Lane**

3.11 Members will be aware that works have been progressing on the new state of the art city centre gym at Church Lane and are asked to note that these are due for completion at the end of the month. All Councillors and Active Belfast Board members have been invited to take a first look at the new facility on Wednesday 29th November (5pm-7pm) in advance of the official opening on Tuesday 12th December

3.12 Members are asked to note that this centre will be a best in class facility combining cutting edge technology and state of the art equipment including an innovative functional area using the Prama product which is the first in Northern Ireland and second in U.K. The functional area has interactive floor and walls accompanied by co-ordinated music, lighting and timing to create an immersive experience for users. The centre has cutting edge technology with facial recognition access and will be a cashless operation. In addition in support of cycle to work schemes and the Council's objectives under sustainable transport a safe cycle storage area will provide secure space for 40 bikes at the rear of the building

3.13 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.

Stage 2 consultation Avoniel and Templemore – will be covered from the £2m leisure mobilisation budget  
Whiterock – to be taken forward under in-year non-recurrent

3.14 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no direct equality implications.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Capital Programme Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

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

of current status of projects under the Programme; projects recommended to be moved/added to the Capital Programme and a number of project updates.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

General

- Note the update in relation to the Capital Programme as outlined in 3.1 and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital project (section 3.1)

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- Agree that the HLF – City Cemetery project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £620,000 to be allocated (see section 3.3-3.5) – the Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. It is recommended that this is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending confirmation of funding from the HLF. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
- Agree that the following projects are added as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects –
  - Destination Hub/Belfast Story – further detail to be brought back to Committee (section 3.6)
  - Waste Plan – New citywide kerbside collection system – SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.7)
  - Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade - SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.8)
  - Waterfront – New PA system – SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.9)

### Project Updates

- Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2018/2019 – note the Fleet Programme for 18/19 (Appendix 1) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects (see 3.10)
- BIF – Colin Glen Trust – approval the submission of the second stage application for a Rural Tourism Project under the Rural Development programme 2014-2020 for an Alpine Coaster in the Colin Glen Forest Park. This follows a successful initial Expression of Interest which was previously agreed by Committee in March 2016. £2.5m has been ringfenced under BIF for the Colin Glen project (see 3.11)

### 3.0 Main report

### 3.1 Key Issues

The Council's rolling Capital Programme is a significant programme with over £185m of projects recently completed or currently underway. Members are asked to note the updates under the Capital Programme since the last update report.

#### Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion

- the £3.7m upgrade of the Tropical Ravine which has been handed over to the C&NS Department – the official opening for this project will take place
- the new £700k Sally Gardens Changing Pavilion which was officially handed over earlier this month – this received match funding from DfC
- New playgrounds at Colin Valley and Blacks Road

#### Projects currently on the ground

- New 3G pitches and pavilions at Falls Park and Cherryvale as part of the Pitches Strategy
- Works on the new leisure facilities at Andersonstown and Robinson and Phase 2 of works at Olympia
- Environmental upgrades at Falls Park and Skegoneil
- Phase 4 of the citywide alleygating programme

#### Projects at tender preparation stage

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including the works at the West Wing

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**including upgrades at the Cenotaph at the City Hall, Clarendon mini 3G pitch, the baby plot memorial at the City Cemetery and a range of IT projects including a new HR/payroll system**

**Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme**

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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Stage</b>
HLF – City Cemetery	This project, to be delivered in association with the HLF, is designed to maximise the heritage potential of Belfast City Cemetery. The project involves a mixture of capital, restorative, interpretive and promotional works. Funding of £1,687,070 from HLF is being sought  Maximum of £620,000 to be allocated - The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council	Move to Stage 3- Committed  Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending confirmation of funding from HLF
Destination Hub /Belfast Story	The development of a new world class visitor attraction within the city centre  Identified within the Belfast Agenda	Add as an Emerging Project
Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system	The implementation of a new city wide kerbside collection scheme for dry recyclables and food waste. Required to help the Council met its challenging recycling targets  Identified in the 10 Year Waste Plan agreed by the People and Communities Committee in June 2017	Add as an Emerging Project
Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station	Construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station at the North Foreshore, to accept segregated dry recyclables and food waste from a kerbside sort	Add as an Emerging Project

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upgrade	collection scheme, as well as other associated recyclables. Required to help the Council met its challenging recycling targets  Identified in the 10 Year Waste Plan agreed by the People and Communities Committee in June 2017	
Waterfront – Replacement PA system	Replacement Stage PA system  Identified as a service need given the age of current PA system	Add as an Emerging Project

**Move to Stage 3 – Committed**

**3.3 HLF – City Cemetery project – Members will recall that in October 2015 they agreed that the HLF – City Cemetery restoration project would be moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted under the Capital Programme. At this stage Members were updated that the Council had been successful in its Stage 1 application for the project under the HLF’s ‘Parks for People’ programme and had been awarded a development grant of £165,000 to work up a Stage 2 proposal. Members are asked to note that since this time officers have been progressing work on the proposal and are now required to submit this by 15th December to meet HLF funding deadlines. This project is designed to maximise the heritage potential of Belfast City Cemetery and protect and preserve it for future generations. To achieve this goal the proposed project has five main elements:**

- **Capital - Development of improved visitor/community amenities including a new visitor centre**
- **Restoration - restoration of the key heritage assets (many of which are listed) within the cemetery including the fountains and the steps**
- **Interpretation - Enhancements of the site’s interpretive potential to ensure users are able to gain a fuller understanding of its history and heritage.**
- **Biodiversity - Enhancement of the natural heritage located within the site through various biodiversity related initiatives**
- **Promotion - Maximise footfall through the site by various methods such as the creation and formalisation of a range of cemetery tours, website development, promotional literature, tie in with local tourism/education and community organisations, links with bus and taxi tours etc.**

- 3.4 Match funding of £1,687,070 from the HLF is being sought towards the project. Members are asked to note that the Council is required to demonstrate its commitment to this project as part of the Stage 2 application to HLF which is due to be submitted by mid- December. It is therefore recommended that the HLF City Cemetery project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme but that this is recommended to be moved to Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending confirmation of funding from the HLF (likely to be April 2018 before this is known) with a maximum budget of £620,000 to be allocated to the project – this includes £515k of capital costs and £105k of revenue costs. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- 3.5 In addition, Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging

- 3.6 Destination Hub/Belfast Story – Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda sets out the ambition to deliver a second world class visitor attraction to generate additional tourist spend and footfall in the city centre. This was also set out in the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015. In addition, a number of agencies (Arts Council NI, Tourism NI, NI Screen, National Museums NI) have identified the need for additional facilities to support the growth of the cultural and tourism offer in Belfast and NI as a whole. The new Destination Hub/Belfast Story is also an integral underpinning component of the ‘We are 2023’ European Capital of Culture bid. The Destination Hub proposal is for a single site in the city centre incorporating a range of facilities including the ‘Belfast Story’ visitor destination, a Northern Ireland film centre, gallery and exhibition space and a digital media/skills training facility.

Members will be aware that work has already been undertaken to SOC stage on the Destination Hub proposal and that work is continuing including looking at the identification of potential capital funding sources as well as possible commercial operating models. Members are asked to note that wider discussions around funding are currently being progressed with other government departments and also through the Belfast Region City Deal however given that a



**Council capital contribution may ultimately be required it is recommended that this project is added onto the Capital Programme as a Stage 1- Emerging Project.**

- 3.7 **Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system** – Members will be aware of that the Council has significant waste targets to meet and as part of this in June 2017 the People and Communities Committee agreed the Council's 10 Year Waste Framework. This Framework set out the challenging targets which the Council is required to meet in terms of recycling levels including the statutory obligations under the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) aimed at reducing the tonnage of waste disposed of at landfill and achieving a 50% recycling rate by 2020 as well as aiming towards a 65% recycling target by 2030. In addition other legislation such as the Food Waste Regulations (2015) has shifted the dynamics on how waste will be collected and treated. Given this there will be a requirement for capital investment in order to ensure that the Council can meet these challenging targets and one of the options proposed under the Waste Framework is the implementation of a new citywide multi-sort, kerbside collection of dry recyclables and food waste.

Members are asked to note that DAERA is seeking to drive improved recycling performance in order to attain the 50% recycling rate for NI by 2020 as required under the EU Waste Framework Directive. It is supportive of the above proposed new kerbside system and is in the process of determining the level of financial support available to Councils which embrace segregated waste collection arrangements. It should be noted that the window of opportunity in terms of the funding arrangements with DAERA is likely to be extremely tight and **it is therefore recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme as an Emerging Project with further detail to be worked up and brought back to Committee in due course for consideration.**

- 3.8 **Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade** – The Council currently relies heavily upon the private waste management sector to store, treat and dispose of its waste and the Waste Plan therefore identified as a priority the need for increased self-sufficiency for the Council. Related to the above proposed project Members are asked to note that the challenging recycling targets and the proposed implementation of a new city-wide kerbside collection system will have an impact on the Council's current waste infrastructure. The Waste Plan therefore identified a potential expansion and improvement to the waste facilities at the North Foreshore involving the construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station (WTS) for segregated materials arising from the proposed change to

kerbside collection schemes and any associated recyclables which may arise from further segregation of the residual waste stream. Members are asked to note that the development of a new Waste Transfer Station will also provide additional capacity and contingency arrangements in the event of an unplanned closure of one of the bays in the existing WTS. It is therefore recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme as an Emerging Project with further detail to be worked up and brought back to Committee in due course for consideration. Members are asked to note that it is recommended that the Waste Plan replaces the proposed Recycling Centre No.5 project which is currently on the capital programme as the overall waste infrastructure requirements will emanate from the Waste Framework.

- 3.9 Waterfront and Ulster Hall – Replacement PA System – Members are asked to note that the current Stage PA system within the Waterfront is 19 years old having been in place since the Waterfront was originally opened. Members will be aware of the significant investment which has been undertaken in the Waterfront, in both the new conference facilities and in upgrading the existing facility to be on an equal par with the new extension which has helped to underpin the stated ambition for the Waterfront to be one of the world's leading conference and exhibition facilities. However, there have been a range of technological advances since the original PA system was installed and as a result the system is no longer 'fit for purpose' and no longer meets the required specification for a large number of promoters and has no appeal to promoters who choose to tour with alternative equipment. In addition, the sound quality has deteriorated over the years and some seating areas are not adequately covered by the system and when in use require augmentation by an additional PA system which has an associated cost. It should be highlighted that complaints have been received from members of the public and from promoters due to the quality of the sound and the existing system. Members should note that the ageing nature of the system means that there is a greater risk of failure and that maintenance costs are also high. It is therefore recommended that options for a replacement PA system are investigated and that this project is placed as an Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme with further details to be brought back to Members in due course.

#### Project Updates

- 3.10 Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2018-2019 – Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. In March 2013

SP&R agreed to allocate £1.9m towards the Fleet Programme for 2018-2019. Members are asked to note that the Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation. Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2018/2019 (see Appendix 1) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects.

- 3.11 **BIF – Colin Glen Forest Park – Rural Development Programme application** – Members will recall that £2.5m has been ringfenced under BIF for a project in the Colin Glen Forest Park. In March 2016 Members approved the submission of an Expression of Interest application for a Rural Tourism Project under the Rural Development programme 2014-2020 to fund an Alpine Coaster in the Colin Glen Forest Park. Members are asked to note that this initial application has been successful and that a second stage application is now required. Members are asked to agree that the Council, on behalf of the Colin Glen Trust, take this application forward.

3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* –The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that the HLF City Cemetery project which is recommended to move to Stage 3 (as outlined in 3.3) is within the affordability limits of the Council – given that this is subject to external funding it is recommended that this is held as a Scheme at Risk.

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

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

3.13 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations set out in the report.

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**Area Working Update**

**Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the South Area Working Group of 25th October; the West Area Working Group of 26th October; the North Area Working Group of 31st October; and the East Area Working Group of 15th November.

**Local Investment Fund**

The Committee approved the recommendations from the South Area Working Group as set out below in respect of the £20,000 underspend of the previous SLIF2 – 12 project:

<b>Project</b>	<b>LIF Allocation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
SLIF2-04 – SOLAS	Additional £10,000	Previous allocation - £100,000 Total new allocation - £110,000
SLIF2-05 - Sandy Row Orange Hall	Additional £10,000	Previous allocation - £100,000 Total new allocation - £110,000

The Committee agreed to the recommendation from the East Area working Group in respect of the previous ELIF2 – 10, that is, that the award to Dundela F.C. of £135,000 towards the development of a new 3G pitch, including floodlighting and spectator stand, be used for the floodlighting element of the project.

**Belfast Investment Fund**

The Committee approved the recommendation from the North Area Working Group as set out below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Stage</b>	<b>New Stage</b>
BIF34 - Old Grove – Basement Youth Club	Stage 1 – Emerging	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted Further detail to be brought back to the AWG in due course

**Asset Management**

**Clarendon Development Association - Licence**

The Committee approved the recommendation of the People and Communities Committee of 9th May, 2017 to the Council entering into a 10 year licence agreement with Clarendon Development Association to permit the locating of a modular building on Council land adjacent to the existing pitches and include with it access and key holding arrangements.

**Proposed Surrender of Lease and Sub Lease at  
19 Greenway, Cregagh Road**

The Committee approved:

- (i) The surrender of the 99 year lease from NIHE to the council for premises at No. 19 Greenway, Cregagh Road; and
- (ii) Approved the termination of the 15 year sub-lease from the Council to the Greenway Women's Group for the premises at No. 19 Greenway, Cregagh Road.

**Belfast Transport Hub – Transfer of Lands**

The Committee approved:

- (i) The grant of a licence on lands as outlined in the report for periods between one and three years, subject to a fee of £22,000 per annum. These lands would be used for builder's compounds for the duration of the works; and
- (ii) The transfer of lands, as outlined at Appendix 2 to the report, to NITHCo, subject to a consideration of £10,000 to facilitate the construction of a 3rd railway line.

**Radius Housing Association – Grant of Licence  
and Easement Agreement**

The Committee agreed that the Council enter into a Licence and Easement Agreement with Radius House Association to facilitate the installation and subsequent maintenance of a mains water pipe supplying the new sports pavilion adjoining the Sally Gardens Community Centre.

**Park and Ride, Dargan Road**

The Committee approved the request from the Department for Infrastructure to construct and operate a temporary Park and Ride facility on Council-owned land at Dargan Road; and consented to further discussion with the Department for a short-term Lease. The Committee noted that any discussions with the Department would be on a without prejudice basis and the terms of any proposed lease would be brought back to the Committee for approval. This would include the suspension of the current site marketing exercise to facilitate the Department for Infrastructure requirement.

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 6th November, 2017:

- To note the update on Peace IV.
- To note the list of 42 organisations as outlined, which had been approved for funding totalling £22,647.50 through the St Patrick's Day Celebration

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Grants Scheme under the delegated authority of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.

- To endorse the funding allocations and additional work under the Expression of Interest exercise regarding developing shared space at the local level and approve the cost outlined for the additional work in relation to the relocation of an artwork to the shared community space at the ABC Health and Leisure Trust (Ardoyne).
- To invite the International Fund for Ireland to present its findings on the Peace Walls Programme Attitudinal Survey to a future meeting; and
- That the relevant Council officers be asked to do an update presentation in respect of the Local Development Plan within the context of Good Relations to a future meeting.
- To note the update on the Decade of Centenaries Programme as agreed by Council in November 2017.
- To approve the commissioning of research on the experience of the Muslim community in Belfast.
- To approve the hosting of two events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day as part of the Good Relations Unit's Diversecity Programme and note that the Good Relations Unit had developed a small Holocaust Memorial Display which would be located in the City Hall.
- To invite representatives from East Belfast Community Development Association and NICRAS to a future meeting of the Partnership to present on their work.
- Through the Good Relations Action Plan, approve funding of up to £5,000.00 to reimage a mural at Bradbury Place (the men heading to the shipyard); and up to £2000.00 be allocated to the erection of a mental health mural on the upper Springfield Road at Whiterock to counter local graffiti.

**City Hall Exhibition Refresh Policy**

The City Solicitor reminded the Committee that, at the time agreements had been made by Members in respect of the City Hall Exhibition, a paper had been tabled seeking agreement in terms of a process for future revisions to the exhibition. He reported that the draft agreement as set out below reflected the principles shared between the parties in reaching agreement on establishing the exhibition and those principles were extended in respect of any proposals for any future changes. The proposed arrangements for revision included proposals for mediation in respect of any revision to the exhibition which might be politically contentious. It was pointed out that the agreement applied also to the East Lobby, a flexible exhibition space:

**Appendix**

**Memorabilia Refresh Policy**

**The parties agree to the following principles on the display of memorabilia in the dedicated exhibition space and further agree that any decision on revising or amending the content of any display or narratives associated with the exhibition for the future will respect the principles so agreed-**

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- 1. The display will reflect a fair balance of the traditions and history of the two predominant communities in N Ireland. This is without prejudice to any proposals to include material that might not have such an association or is otherwise uncontroversial.**
- 2. The display of material will have an association with the Citizens, City or district of Belfast.**
- 3. Material removed from any part of the exhibition with an association with a community must be replaced with material having the same community association, unless otherwise agreed between the parties.**
- 4. Narratives will be neutral reflecting a factual position and will not seek to promote or criticise any political party, view or tradition.**
- 5. Material relocated from the Rotunda and placed on display in the exhibition space will not be removed from the exhibition space unless otherwise agreed by the parties.**

**Without prejudice to the above principles, the parties agree to the following default arrangement with regard to decisions on revision and future content of the exhibition-**

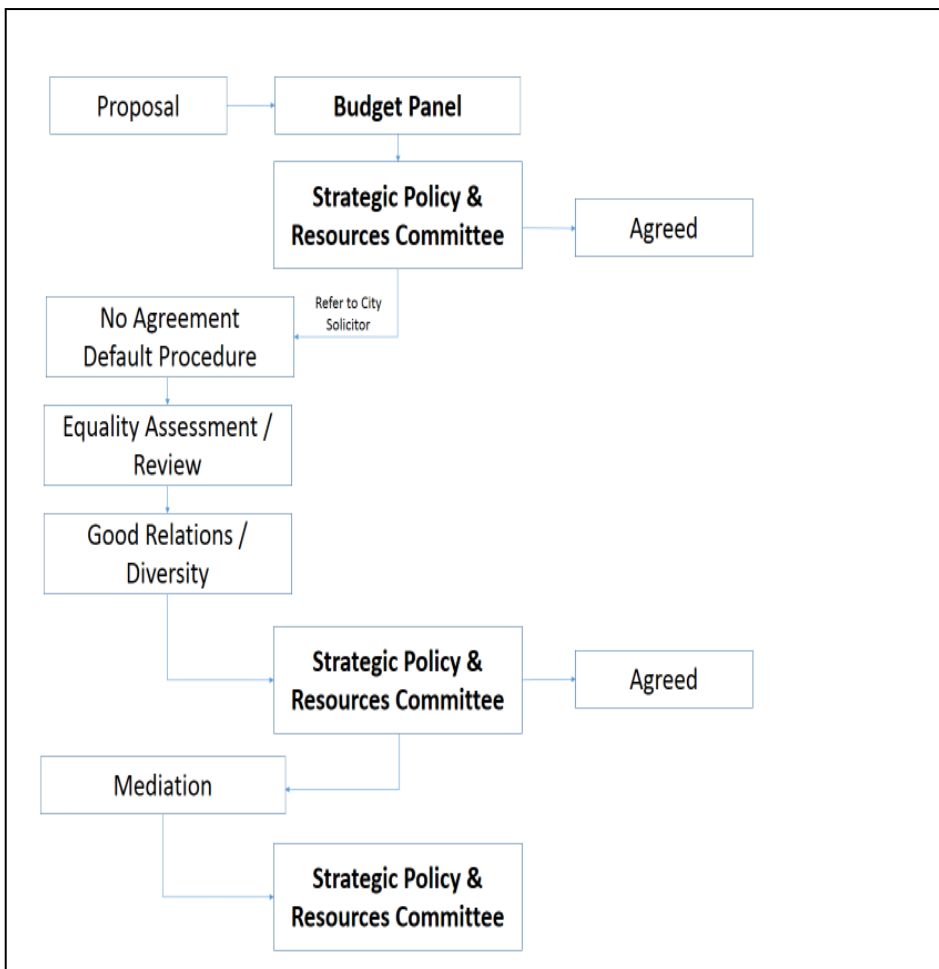
- A. Any proposals will be referred to the City Solicitor who will commission an assessment of the impact of such proposals in terms of equality and good relations impact.**
- B. The proposals and report dealing with the impacts will be referred to the Shared City Partnership for comment.**
- C. The matter will then be reported to SP&R. The parties agree to address issues within the spirit of this agreement and to work toward reformulating such proposals, if required, to take account of any identified impacts and the views expressed by the Shared City Partnership.**
- D. In default of agreement the parties agree that the proposals will be subject to mediation.**

**Mediation will take place facilitated by an independent senior legally qualified member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Service. Mediation will take no longer than 4 weeks. In the event that mediation has not been successful in formulating a proposal with which the parties agree, the proposal will be referred back to SP&R for consideration and decision.**

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The parties concur that this agreement creates a legitimate expectation that each will respect the principles upon which it is based and that they will work to resolve issues generally and in the manner set out. The parties accept that a failure to work and produce outcomes within the spirit and principles of this agreement may form the basis of a call-in in the context of Section 41 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and that this agreement will be material to consideration of such issues and/or in relation to any complaint made to the Equality Commission alleging breach of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (NI) 1998.

**Summary of Memorabilia Refresh Process**



The Committee approved the refresh policy, subject to point 5 being replaced with the following

“Material relocated from elsewhere in the City Hall for display in the exhibition space is defined as part of the permanent exhibition.”



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**Operational Issues**

**Lord Mayor – Strong Cities Network, Washington January 2018**

The Committee was advised that the Lord Mayor had received an invitation, via the US Consul General, from the US Department of State and the British Embassy in London, to attend a Strong Cities Network international mayoral workshop on 24th January, 2018 in Washington.

The Committee was advised that the international mayoral workshop, hosted by the US Department of State, would be held on the margins of the US Conference of Mayors' 86th Winter Meeting. Other attendees would include a high powered delegation of British mayors/city executives, potentially including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Glasgow.

Since 2015, the Strong Cities Network had united city and community leaders in a global network with the mission of building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms. It was hoped that further engagement between American and UK mayors, municipal level policy makers, practitioners and Strong Cities Network counterparts would enhance the common efforts to make cities safer, become a more secure and more prosperous.

The Committee authorised the attendance of the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive (or nominee), at the Strong Cities Network International mayoral workshop in Washington DC on 24th January, 2018 and the expenditure in connection with the visit.

**Minutes of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board but requested that it consider deferring implementing the new pricing structure until Parties had been made aware of the proposed changes.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 17th November.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Historic Working Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 2nd November.

**Request for the Use of the Banqueting Hall**

The Committee was advised that, last month, the Lord Mayor had hosted a Parent and Toddler event in the Reception Room, City Hall. In light of its success, she was proposing to hold further meetings during the remainder of her term in Office and was suggesting that they could be held in the Banqueting Hall, to allow for increased participation from across the city. It was proposed that an event be held each month from

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December, 2017 until May, 2018, with the exact dates being dependent upon the availability of the room. Each event would last for approximately 3 hours and would include time to set up and dismantle any equipment used.

The Committee authorised the use by the Lord Mayor of the Banqueting Hall to hold a monthly Parent and Toddler event, with any hire fees of the hall to be waived and any additional expenditure for the event to be met from the Lord Mayor's Entertainment Allowance.

**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:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2018 EVENTS</b>						
Moment Health	30 November 2107	<b>Lean in Belfast all Together</b> Reception with speakers and food for guests from technology industry from France, Germany and USA.  Numbers Attending - 200	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	No	Already approved under Director Delegated authority
Royal Mail	Jan – May 2018 TBC	<b>Pride Postbox and Drinks Reception</b> – helping to promote diversity in Belfast and linking in with other Pride events. Multi-coloured post box in city hall for staff and public use.  Numbers Attending – 100 /300 tbc	Yes D	No – linked to Belfast Agenda	No as commercial company	Approve No charge No hospitality
SANDS – Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity	January 2018	<b>Still Parents Remembrance service</b> and reception for bereaved parents to celebrate the lives of the children and mourn their	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		deaths.  Numbers Attending – 100				
Justice and Peace Europe	10 February 2018	<b>European Conference of Justice and Peace Commissions</b> – reception and dinner to promote Belfast and coordinate the role in societal and human right  Numbers Attending – 30 / 40	Yes A, B & D	No (Charity)	No – small reception	Approve No charge No hospitality
Queens University Belfast	19 February 2018	<b>Recomposing the City reception</b> – launch with canapés and wine for a guide for urban planners in Belfast and NI.  Numbers Attending - 100	Yes A & B	Yes Charge £300	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve £300 Wine Reception
Association of Talking Newspapers	16 April 2018	<b>Launch of Talking Newspapers Video</b> – celebrating and promoting this service to those who struggle to physically read newspapers themselves.  Numbers Attending - 150	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast County Guides	3 May 2018	<b>Girl Guiding Awards</b> – Annual event to celebrate the achievements of local children and adults involved in the organization.	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers Attending - 250				
Chartered Accountants Ireland	17 May 2018	Chartered Accountants Ireland Past Presidents Dinner and drinks reception for Past Presidents and members.  Numbers Attending - 150	Yes A & B  1 in 3 rule	Yes Charge £300	No	Approve 1 in 3 year rule applied Charge £300 No Hospitality
Belfast HSC Trust	5 June 2018	<b>Belfast Trust Volunteer Recognition Reception</b> – refreshments, speeches and presentation to volunteers of the Trust.  Numbers Attending - 140	Yes C & D	Yes Charge £300	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve Charge £300 Tea and Coffee Reception
Queens University Belfast Centre for Secure Technologies	29 August 2018	<b>International Privacy, Security and Trust Conference 2018</b> – Reception, Tour and dinner for delegates of 3-day conference.  Numbers Attending - 150	Yes A	Yes Charge £300	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve £300 Wine Reception
Royal College of Midwives	30 November 2018	<b>Royal College of Midwives Gala Dinner</b> – Centenary celebration celebrating the Midwives (Ireland) Act 1918  Numbers Attending – 200	Yes C	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
European Political Science Association	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2019	<b>Annual Conference Welcome Reception</b> – Networking event for the 3-day conference being held at QUB exploring the teaching of Politics.  Numbers Attending – 600	Yes A & B	No – bid supported by Visit Belfast	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

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

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

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Cash Flow for Events - Councillor McVeigh**

Councillor McVeigh referred to a previous decision of the Committee at its meeting on 20th October when it had rejected a request from Féile an Phobail for the Council to cash flow a proportion of up-front costs for its 30th anniversary birthday event. He requested that the Committee rescind its previous decision in relation to the establishment of a cash flow facility for events and proposed the following:

- (1) The Council agrees to set up a pilot cash flow facility of up to £600k to support the delivery of one-off arts and festival events across the city with arts and cultural organisations the Council already funds through other grants schemes. The facility will be published on the Council's website. Each request will be subject to appropriate due diligence including an assessment of the contribution, of the event to the artistic and cultural life of the city. The facility will be managed in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.
- (2) At any one time the total commitment of any such facilities will not exceed £600K.
- (3) The pilot scheme will be reviewed to see how it has impacted on artistic and cultural development, economic and tourist development in Belfast.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Beattie.

The Director of Finance and Resources and the City Solicitor then answered a number of questions in relation to the proposal.

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**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Craig,  
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter to enable a report to be submitted setting out, in particular, the legal and financial issues, and the objective criteria on which any decision on whether the Council would give such a facility to a particular organisation would be based.

On a recorded vote eight Members voted for the amendment and ten against and it was declared lost.

<b><u>For 8</u></b>	<b><u>Against 10</u></b>
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire), Aldermen Browne, Convery, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Graham, Craig and Hutchinson	Councillors Hargey, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Long, McDonough- Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill and Walsh

The original proposer standing in the name of Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Beattie was put to the meeting.

On a recorded vote, ten members voted for the proposal, seven against, with one no vote and the proposal was accordingly declared carried.

<b><u>For 10</u></b>	<b><u>Against 7</u></b>	<b><u>No Vote 1</u></b>
Councillors Hargey, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Long, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill and Walsh	The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Graham and Craig	Councillor Hutchinson

Chairperson

## People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 7th November, 2017

### MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);  
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);  
Aldermen Rodgers, McCoubrey and McKee; and  
Councillors Armitage, Beattie, Corr, Corr Johnston, Garrett,  
Heading, Magennis, Milne, McCabe, McCusker, Newton,  
Nicholl and Nic Biorna.

Also attended: Councillor Boyle.

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 McReynolds.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th October and the special meeting of 18th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

### New Member of the Council

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Orla Nic Biorna, who had replaced former Councillor Austin, to her first meeting.

### Schedule of Meetings 2018

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the People and Communities Committee during 2018, subject to a new date being identified for the special meeting to consider housing issues during January 2018:

*Special Meeting (Housing Issues) – new date during January 2018 to be confirmed*  
Tuesday, 9th January  
Tuesday, 6th February  
Tuesday, 6th March

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Tuesday, 10th April

*Special Meeting (Housing Issues) – Monday 16th April (to which all Members are invited)*

Tuesday, 8th May

Tuesday, 5th June

No meeting in July

*Special Meeting (Housing Issues) – Wednesday 1st August (to which all Members are invited)*

Tuesday, 7th August

Tuesday, 4th September

Tuesday, 9th October

Tuesday, 6th November

*Special Meeting (Housing Issues) – Monday 12th November (at 12.30 p.m.) (to which all Members are to be invited)*

Tuesday, 4th December

All meetings would commence at 4.30 p.m. apart from the special meeting of 12th November which would be at 12.30 p.m.

**Request to Present - Boxing**

The Committee noted that a request had been received from County Antrim Boxing seeking permission to present a proposal on behalf of the Belfast Clubs' regarding progressing the Council's Boxing Strategy.

The Committee agreed that representatives from County Antrim Boxing would be invited to present at the December meeting.

**Committee/Strategic Issues**

**Committee Plan Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a mid-year update on the People and Communities Committee Plan 2017/18 outlining progress on key actions, achievement and risks.**

**1.2 The People and Communities Committee Plan 2017/18 was approved by Committee on the 13 June 2017, following a planning workshop with members on the 15 February 2017 and a follow up Committee Planning feedback report noted at the People and Communities Committee on the 7 March 2017.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**



Note the progress to date against the agreed actions within the Committee Plan.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

The Committee is currently working to an ambitious Committee Plan which describes how its purpose, objectives and activities contributes to the strategic direction of the Council's Corporate Plan and the achievement of the city's long term vision and priorities detailed within the Belfast Agenda. The Committee Plan was created after discussion with Members and Senior Management Team about the role of the Committee and its priorities for the City and local neighbourhoods. While the Committee contributes to the delivery of all four Belfast Agenda priorities, City Development, Growing the Economy and Living Here are the main focus of this Committee, particularly the latter priority.

**Committee Plan Update**

**3.2** Over the last six months Committee have developed and implemented a range of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving the quality of life at the local level, working with partner organisations and communities to realise the City's full potential. Lead officers provided status and progress updates against Committee Plan projects, programmes and activities. A detailed update is outlined in Appendix 1 and some key highlights are summarised below against the relevant priorities of the Belfast Agenda.

**3.3 Living Here – Improve Neighbourhoods highlights:**

- We are working on the development of a neighbourhood regeneration framework to include a range of key workstreams identified in the Belfast Agenda e.g. employability and skills, health and well-being, community safety, good relations and are currently sharing and learning good practice with Officers from Bradford City Council.
- We have established contacts with the Family Support Hubs to raise awareness of our outreach play service and made links with Barnardo's and the Red Cross to deliver a play programme for Syrian families. We continue to deliver programmes to the Belfast Islamic Centre, Traveller children and reach out to new groups across the city.
- We continue to deliver the Belfast (D)PCSP strategic plan, using an outcomes based approach to monitor

performance. We are maximising our resources by integrating internal working between SNO's, Parks Wardens and AEO staff and by liaising weekly with the PSNI and carrying out joint operations. We are currently finalising an information sharing agreement on drug and alcohol issues and supporting vulnerable people in partnership with the statutory, community and voluntary sector.

- We have a grand total of 17 green flags, by successfully retaining our 15 and achieving accreditation for 2 additional spaces - Tullycarnet Park and Dunmurry Village.
- We have reached a major milestone with the opening of the final section of the transformative Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) project. In total the CCG has developed 16km of new foot and cycle paths, improved green spaces, introduced 23 new or improved bridges, created 5km of flood walls and embankments, introduced 6 new tourism and heritage trails as well as the C.S. Lewis Square. We will ensure that the use of this valuable asset is maximised, via sustainable programming.
- We have developed a social innovation challenge programme framework and process. Inner East and Whiterock have completed an accelerator programme, with 3 projects pitching to receive funding i.e. New Lodge, Belvoir and Milltown.

**3.4 Living Here – Improve the city living experience highlights:**

- As part of the delivery of the Playing Pitches Strategy, work at Falls Park is underway and will be complete by March 2018. Work on the new pitch at Cherryvale will commence October and finish by March 2018. We will continue to ensure that the capital investment in our neighbourhood assets is maximised, through usage and programming.
- As part of the Amateur Boxing Strategy, we have worked with the IABA to develop and resource an agreed boxing action plan up until March 2018.
- As part of the C&NS Departmental Change Programme, a draft City Centre Streetscape Strategy and Action Plan has been developed to support inter-departmental working and help secure commitment and contribution from external partners.
- We successfully organised and delivered the Spring Fair, Rose Week and Autumn Fair, with a high average of 95% satisfaction rating.

**3.5 Living Here – Improve community relations highlights:**

- An integrated Good Relations action plan is currently being delivered including the allocation of Tranche 1 grant aid funding, Decade of Centenaries programme, Interfaces programme and commissioned work in relation to racism in schools.
- Work is continuing on the development of projects under the Peace IV themes of Children and Young People, Shared Spaces & Services and Building Positive Relations and we are currently fulfilling some conditions required prior to the receipt of a letter of offer.

**3.6 Living Here – Reduce life inequalities highlights:**

- We continue to work with our Belfast Strategic Partners (BSP - BCC, PHA and BHSCT) and have agreed priority areas for action going forward. Some collaborative pieces of work completed include; the launch of the 'Take 5' Toolkit and training programme and 'Have your say' emotional wellbeing survey, attended by 120 people, Emotional Resilience action plan, Get Active Belfast pledges and the Learning City plan for Belfast.
- We are also working collaboratively with our partners to pilot crisis de-escalation (Community and Voluntary and Statutory Services) and street triage services (NIAS and PSNI services).
- We continue to deliver a wide range of sports development initiatives including Clubmark Club accreditation scheme, Everybody Active 2020 Programme, Support for Sport funding programme to include a ring-fenced boxing events fund and the Belfast Sports Award.
- We continue to manage the strategic partnership with GLL and a new Active Belfast Limited business plan (2017-2020) was approved by Committee in May 2017. Performance measures and health outputs are built around the strategic partnership outcomes of getting: 'more people, more active, more often'.

**3.7 Living Here – Enable active, healthy and empowered citizens highlights:**

- An action plan for implementing the volunteering policy has been developed in partnership with Volunteer Now and a steering group will be appointed to take this forward. The Volunteer management process has been piloted and is now being reviewed.

- We are currently developing a phase 2 Growing Communities action plan aligned to the Belfast Agenda and the C&NS Change Programme principles, which will be presented to DMT in Autumn and Committee shortly after.

**3.8 Living Here – Provide fit-for-purpose city services highlights:**

- We continue to work on the workstreams and projects as part of the C&NS Change Programme, in relation to service integration, structural change and efficiency. Committee have agreed the Tier-3 management structure, which we are now seeking to recruit by April 2018. Work is ongoing to develop the JDs and agree the recruitment process for filling the posts. We have commissioned Deloitte to support our work on the development of a customer model and corporate approach to customer focus.
- We continue to develop our approach to area planning and model for area working with the Director of C&NS taking over as lead Chief Officer of the AWGs. Initial thinking around area planning and working is that it is linked to Peace IV and compliments other pieces of new and existing capital and programming work. Over the coming months there will be engagement through Party Group briefings and Area Working Groups.
- Work is continuing on the bereavement improvement programme including the development of various options and financial models and ongoing discussions with neighbouring councils about joint working opportunities in relation to crematoria and cemetery development. We continue to engage with grave owners and memorial sculptors during the implementation of the memorial management policy.

**3.9 Living Here – Support young and older people highlights:**

- The Age Friendly Belfast 2017 event took place in June and work is ongoing on the development of a Age Friendly action plan.
- We regularly engage with 40 young people from across Belfast as part of the youth forum. In May 2017 young people launched their research 'Poverty; It's not a choice' and have been actively engaging key decision makers within Council on the recommendations. The youth forum have also been working with NI Youth Forum and Children's Law Centre to plan a new youth led mental health campaign called 'The elephant in the room'.

**3.10 City Development – Protect and enhance our environment and built heritage highlights:**

- We continue to work with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to develop an Open Spaces Strategy and local biodiversity action plan to ensure we take a sustainable approach to protecting and maximising the benefits of the city's natural and built environment to achieve better outcomes for Belfast.
- The Waste Framework was ratified by Council in July 2017 and the collections options appraisal completed in August 2017. Consultation research is currently being conducted to inform the public consultation phase due early next year. We successfully completed the 'No Food Waste' campaign phase 1 in September 2017 and the next step is to report to oversight board for capital projects outlining the capital cost implications arising from the waste framework.
- We continue to develop the circular economy framework - Resourceful Belfast including key actions for implementation.
- Together with Project and Projects, we continue to support and progress HLF funding applications to restore and animate city assets, including the £3.7million upgrade of the Tropical Ravine, City Cemetery and Templemore.

**Corporate Risk Actions Update**

- 3.11** There has been good progress in relation to the two corporate risk actions, a detailed risk action update is outlined in Appendix 2. The risks are being assessed, plans are in place and are regularly monitored. In summary the four actions under the Waste Management risk have made significant progress, as three actions are now agreed/ fully implemented with the development of a strategic plan encompassing collections arrangements and target attainment complete and a strategic action plan signed off. One action remains partially completed as still awaiting the outcome of the PAC in relation to Arc 21, current contract arrangement is suffice as a contingency arrangement. The Safeguarding All Ages risk is progressing well at this stage with good progress being made. It is anticipated that the draft policy framework for safeguarding all ages will be presented to SP&R Committee at the beginning of next year and following that a communication and training programme will be rolled out.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

**The Committee Plan 2017-18 has been developed and delivered in the context of the resources available to Committee.**

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Where necessary all projects, programmes and activities contained within the Committee Plan have and will be subject to equality screening in line with the Council's processes."**

Following a query from a Member, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services undertook to clarify the officer who was now responsible for progressing the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy and to update the Member directly.

The Committee noted the update provided.

**Waste Collection 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 plan.

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that the Council had just recently been shortlisted for a Sustainable Ireland Award. The Committee agreed that, in the event that the Council be awarded a Sustainable Ireland Award, to authorise the attendance of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson at the Awards Ceremony on 27th November.

It was agreed further that, given the progress made to date in terms of improving the efficiency of the waste collection service, the submission of officer update reports could move to bimonthly, commencing January 2018.

**Proposed Study visit to Covanta Poolbeg**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that it was proposed that a site visit would be organised for Members of the Committee to visit the Covanta Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Poolbeg, Dublin.

Several Members stated that the site visit was not required and it was unanimously agreed that it would not take place.

A further Member requested an update in respect of Arc21.

The Committee was advised that the minutes of the Arc 21 meetings were available for viewing online. Following discussion, it was agreed that officers would submit

an update report in respect of Arc21 to a future meeting and the three Council Member representatives on Arc 21 would be invited to attend the Committee meeting.

### **Area Planning**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

##### **1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

**Provide Members with an update on initial thoughts around developing our approach to area planning, in the first instance 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 which was taken to SP&R on 20th October resulting in ongoing Party Group briefings.**

#### **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 In the Belfast Agenda we identify the four key areas we want to focus on in the next 4 years (the period of the Community Plan). One of the four key priorities identified is ‘Living Here’, for this area of focus we have described the difference we want to make, the stretch goals or targets we want to achieve and the population indicators that we think this work will impact.**

**3.3 Some of these targets over the next four years include;**

- delivering £1billion of physical investment in neighbourhoods;**
- improve how safe people feel within our neighbourhoods;**
- supporting communities to make progress towards reducing the number of physical barriers at interface sites.**

- 3.4 It is also worth noting that one of the key workstreams contained within the 'Living Here' priority is to 'Design an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and maximise the impact of local assets and investment'.
- 3.5 Despite significant capital and revenue investment in local areas across Belfast, it is the case that sometimes we are not maximising the opportunities and resources available to us in a coordinated way as effectively as we would like. However, 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.
- 3.6 To help achieve our goals identified in the Belfast Agenda 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 and resources available, the Council have the potential to lead on developing an emerging area planning model for delivering against the priorities identified in the Belfast Agenda by integrating a range of programmes and services and associated staff resources.

#### Peace IV

- 3.7 One of the opportunities we have to test this area planning approach exists through Peace IV. Council officers have been working closely with 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 & 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.
- 3.8 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 along this corridor as possible physical regeneration projects with significant programming opportunities also forming part of the submission.
- 3.9 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

- 3.10 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 and other investors.
- 3.11 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), DFC capital programmes and potential developments of the Invest NI site. Recent major investment in the area also includes the Innovation factory and E3 campus.
- 3.12 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

- 3.13 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.*

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 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.

**Further Opportunities for Area Planning across the City**

- 3.18** We are aware that we need to develop our area planning approach in other areas across the city; To align both the work of the Council, and that of partners, including the community and voluntary sector in a meaningful way is complicated and will require significant development over a number of years.
- 3.19** However, through work we are undertaking as part of our change programme within the Council in terms of how we improve service delivery at a local level we have an opportunity to realign current resources alongside new investment to see how we can maximise current opportunities and test and develop how we do this.
- 3.20** There are opportunities to develop similar area planning approaches in other parts of the city, for example we have been testing and learning how we might do this work through our locality planning work in four areas across the city. Initial learning from this and other integrated work programmes can inform how we develop a coordinated area planning approach.

Next steps

3.21 Following discussion on this subject at SP&R in October Chief officers are currently undertaking party group briefings to receive more detailed feedback from members on the development of an area planning approach. Once briefings are complete, further engagement with members will take place at Area Working groups on how this work will be taken forward, which will include potential opportunity areas to develop similar models.

3.22 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.

**Staff:** 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 being undertaken through the change programme.

3.23 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee noted the report.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Parks/Open Spaces

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Further to discussion at the special People and Communities Committee meeting on 18 October 2017 Members requested that a report be submitted 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 any financial impact on the Council’s existing budgets.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

Consider the contents of the report and endorse the strategic direction and allocation of resources as outlined.

**3.0 Key Issues**

**Additional Preventative Measures**

**3.1 Members will be aware that anti-social behaviour is challenging to resolve, not just in parks/open spaces but across Belfast generally. It is a complex issue and is, in most circumstances, the manifestation of wider community and societal vulnerabilities which require holistic strategic planning and investment with statutory, community and voluntary partners.**

**3.2 Effectively and sustainably addressing these vulnerabilities can take time, and it is important to recognise the detrimental impact on the quality of life of individuals, families and communities affected by anti-social behaviour in the present. It is therefore incumbent on all partners (including the Council) to do whatever it can operationally to minimise anti-social behaviour in the present. Weekend nights and school holidays are usually most problematic.**

**Operational Preventative Measures**

**3.3 Council provides a range of existing services the purpose of which is to address anti-social behaviour. These services are outlined below:**

**Mobile CCTV**

**3.4 Existing Provision – One mobile CCTV van follows a pre-set route each weekend based on parks/open spaces hot spots. Cover is provided on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights up to end March 2018**

**Existing Provision Cost – The cost of existing provision up to end March is approximately £42,000 per year and this is budgeted for within existing revenue budgets. A procurement exercise is scheduled for early 2018 as the existing contract runs out.**

**Additional Provision** – The existing contractor has only one mobile CCTV van. In the short term, an additional supplier would be required and availability is not guaranteed.

**Additional Provision Cost** – The approximate cost of an additional vehicle is £700 per night. To provide an additional vehicle on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday night up to end March 2018 would cost an additional £40,000.

**Safer Neighbourhood Officers (SNO's)/Park Wardens**

- 3.5 **Existing Provision** – 4 SNO's are on normal shift from 4.30pm – Midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. SNO's do not normally work on Sundays. Park Wardens work annualised hours in line with the seasonal opening/closing times of parks. Park Wardens are not on normal shift after approximately 6.30pm, however, practically they are not available from 5.30pm as they have locking up duties during the last hour of their shifts.

**Existing Provision Cost** – The existing provision as outlined below is part of normal Council service delivery and as such is budgeted for within existing revenue budgets.

**Additional Provision** – Additional overtime hours could be provided by offering voluntary overtime (minimum team of four for health and safety reasons) to provide an additional team on Friday and Saturday nights and to put one team on Sunday nights where there is no provision currently.

**Additional Provision Cost** – The approximate cost of one additional team of four on voluntary overtime on each Friday and Saturday night would be £950 per night (8 hour shift). The approximate cost of providing one team of four on voluntary overtime on Sunday night would be £1,250 per night. The approximate total cost of increasing provision to this level would be £65,000 up to end March 2018.

**Alcohol Enforcement Officers (AEO's)**

- 3.6 **Existing Provision** – Alcohol Enforcement Officers are a casual pool of Officers trained to undertake alcohol enforcement duties and deal with low level anti-social behaviour. They have other jobs within Council and are only available to undertake work outside their core working hours. AEO's are currently being used each weekend and during half term week to work alongside SNO's with the overall provision being one team of four dedicated to Falls Park/City Cemetery

and a mobile team covering other hot spot parks/open spaces.

**Existing Provision Cost** – A small budget exists for AEO's during spring/summer months and at key events and times, however, this is full committed for the remainder of the year. Additional AEO provision after the Halloween half term week will require additional budget of £450.00 for each team of four per night (6 hour shift). This approximate total cost of increasing AEO provision to this level would be £27,000 up to end March 2018.

### **Summary and Budget Implications**

- 3.7 Three front line job roles exist currently within Council whose responsibility it is to deal with low level anti-social and nuisance behaviour, namely Safer Neighbourhood Officers, Park Wardens and Alcohol Enforcement Officers. No front line job role exists whose responsibility it is to deal with serious anti-social behaviour or criminality and the current Mobile Attendant job role does not provide for any role in dealing with low level anti-social and nuisance behaviour.
- 3.8 Those three front line job roles are spending the majority of their time at present working to address the issues around parks and open spaces.
- 3.9 If additional provision is required in the form of more CCTV provision, staff voluntary overtime or additional casual AEO's hours, no budget is available at present for this work.
- 3.10 Some available budget may be available within the Parks ASB Budget to assist with additional operational provision, however, this would reduce the monies available within this budget to support positive animation and community led diversionary work around parks/open spaces.

### **Integrated Planning in Neighbourhoods**

- 3.11 Members will recall that whilst anti-social behaviour can be a concern at a range of parks/open spaces across the city, it is most persistent and prevalent in a smaller number.
- 3.12 Members may wish to consider how our convening role in community planning and the learning from the locality planning pilots can provide a platform for a more integrated, holistic and sustainable approach to addressing concerns around the most challenging parks/open spaces as part of an area model.

- 3.13 This approach would consider how anti-social behaviour in these parks/open space is the manifestation of a range of other pressures and vulnerabilities within the surrounding communities.
- 3.14 The approach would also use the park/open space as its core 'place', but would work with statutory, community and voluntary partners in the surrounding neighbourhoods to explore key connections and dependencies, working with other community, voluntary and statutory partners. For example in some of the areas there is significant investment in other services provide by statutory partners and local youth groups.
- 3.15 The purpose of the approach would be to identify the key pressures and vulnerabilities in the connected neighbourhoods which could be contributing to the issues in the park/open space and also to identify earlier and more sustainable opportunities to intervene to prevent the anti-social behaviour from starting in the first place. This may entail aligning some of our resources at a number of parks and open spaces and using a more coordinated approach to get better results where there is work currently being undertaken.
- 3.16 Such an approach may take longer to bed in (depending on current structures and relationships already in place), however we could develop an integrated approach that deals with immediate issues, while developing longer term and more sustainable was of working better at a local level. The work being developed in open spaces and parks could be part of an overall integrated plan for the area
- 3.17 Key Elements of the Approach would be:
- Community centred to ensure the community voices are heard and are part of co-designing solutions to problems
  - Sustainability to ensure meaningful and long term change is the focus
  - Opportunities for community led social innovation
  - Early intervention and prevention to include opportunities to tackle associated drugs/alcohol, mental health, education and employment challenges
  - Evidence based (community evidence as well as statistical evidence)
  - Improvements in the integrated service offer to communities (both internally for Council and as a wider

- group of statutory, community and voluntary service providers) to improve community confidence
- Reduce duplication and identify opportunities for more efficient use of Council resources
  - Identification of key community assets in the areas and how to support the development of these
  - Physical measures which could assist in the core park/open space and opportunities to attract wider physical investment in the connected neighbourhoods
  - Opportunities to work with local partners to develop animation programmes to change
  - Risk of displacement would be considered and contingency plans would be developed to minimise that
  - Role of schools, parents and youth providers in the area, including how the Education Authority Local Advisory Group plays its part in meeting the needs of young people in parks/open spaces
  - Connecting other associated agenda's and partnerships and ensuring they are harnessed and channelled for maximum benefit to the park/open space and its connected neighbourhoods e.g. Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, PEACE, Fresh Start, Urban Villages, Belfast Strategic Partnership, Local Advisory Groups (LAG's)
  - Regular reporting to Area Working Group's on progress and direction

### **3.18 Financial & Resource Implications**

#### **Staff Resources**

Whilst the benefits of partnership working are acknowledged and evident, the above approach will still require significant changes in ways of working both internally and externally.

It is therefore suggested that Members would consider this approach around Falls Park/City Cemetery and Orangefield/Avoniel Park in the first tranche and at a later date consider inclusion of other parks/open spaces.

### **3.19 Financial Resources**

The financial implications of providing additional operational preventative measures are outlined above. No revenue budget is available at present to facilitate an increase in operational preventative measures without a consequential reduction in monies available to support positive animation and community led diversionary events in these parks/open spaces.



**3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present.”**

A Member highlighted the ongoing problems with antisocial behaviour at the Marrowbone Park.

There was general agreement that antisocial behaviour and vandalism was a Citywide problem and therefore any potential solutions needed to consider all of the parks and open spaces within the City and not just one specific area.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that officers would submit a further report to a future meeting that would:

- detail proposals as to how the City’s parks and open spaces could be better animated which might help act as deterrent to vandalism; and
- look at the Best Practice of other Local Authorities and include potential budget options.

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

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 2nd November, the following key items had been considered.

- update on the CCTV cost options for the Falls Parks and the City Cemetery;
- update on the City of Belfast Crematorium – joint initial guidance and coffin accreditation schemes;
- update on respect of the permanent memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery;
- update on the implementation of the Memorial Management Policy; and
- update on the economic appraisal of future cremation facilities.

A Member once again reiterated that recent meetings of the Working Group had been poorly attended. He stressed the importance of some of the issues currently under consideration and encouraged greater cross Party attendance at the forthcoming meetings. He noted that the Council protocol did allow for the attendance of other representatives and he encouraged the Members to nominate another Member to attend should they be unable to make the meeting.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 2nd November 2017, subject to the date of the next meeting being amended from Thursday, 4th December to Thursday, 7th December.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Building Successful Communities – Divis Back Path**

The Committee was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 21st October 2016, had agreed in principle to accept the transfer of assets and the associated liability subject to certain conditions being met which had included securing a minimum of three years' maintenance from the Department for Communities (DfC).

Included within the general consent were two projects under Building Successful Communities, these related to regeneration projects in the Divis and Lower Shankill areas. The Members were asked to note that, whilst this update related specifically to the proposals for the Divis Back Path, the project was linked with a similar proposal, the Bullring, and design work on this project was ongoing.

The Director drew the Members' attention to the proposed concept plan options. He reported that Council officers had been involved in discussions regarding the plans. The design was quite innovative and not something that the Council would normally provide. He advised that it incorporated a significant sports area that would facilitate sprinting, 'bag' workouts, among other items of equipment. The proposal had emerged following a consultation exercise undertaken on behalf of the DfC.

The Director advised that the Council was satisfied that a maintenance regime could be put in place to undertake routine inspection of the facility, to open and close it and undertake general routine operational maintenance of the facility. The DfC had agreed to provide three years' maintenance costs, outside of any defects liability period. The facility, once completed, would be included on the Council's Insurance schedule.

The Committee was asked to note the concept plans with the understanding that more detailed designs would be developed and a planning application submitted in due course. The DfC had indicated that it was under financial pressures to incur spend by the end of March 2018. The Members were also asked to note the reference in the drawing to a memorial garden, the Director advised that, whilst there was no firm proposal as to the nature of the memorial, it was officers understanding that it would be a memorial to victims of suicide.

The Director then provided the Committee with detail in respect of the future management of the facility and highlighted that it was anticipated that the facility would be able to support both casual and programmed use. He advised that the community were open to conversation regarding involvement in the future management of the asset.

The Committee:

- noted the drawings for the proposal were being brought forward to design stage; and

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- agreed that officers would engage with the Community and other partners regarding the resourcing of the facility post completion within the context of the ongoing work on Area Planning.

**Proposal to Mark Out a Temporary Pitch at Stranmillis Embankment**

The Committee was advised that works at Cherryvale Playing Fields, as previously agreed by the Council as part of the Pitches Strategy, had commenced and were scheduled to be completed by March/April 2018, subject to the weather conditions and any other potential unforeseen technical issues. The Assistant Director reported that it was unlikely that the new pitch would be available for use until late 2018/ early 2019.

The officer reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 12th September, it had agreed to consider whether the Council would erect Gaelic posts and mark out an area of Botanic Gardens at the rear of Queens Sport adjacent to Ridgeway Street/Stranmillis Embankment to provide a temporary pitch to address the issue of displacement.

The Assistant Director advised that officers had inspected the site and concluded that a full size GAA pitch (140m x 90m including run off, could not be accommodated, however, it might be possible to provide an area of approximately 130m x 80m including run off). The pitch would be bordered by a pedestrian path and a perimeter fence, behind which was a small area comprising of trees and hedging.

The Members noted the following points:

- the Council had not previously provided temporary playing field facilities to offset displacement and the Committee was asked to be mindful of a precedent being set should approval be granted;
- the cost of establishing the pitch, including the erection of the goal posts, was estimated to be in the region of £5,000.00. This would need to be found from within existing budgets;
- the site had natural drainage and retained rainwater, particularly during the autumn and winter months, this appeared to be most evident where there was run off at the edges. As a consequence, grass cutting might not be possible and usage might be limited;
- all pitches needed to be rested and, if the facility was used in the autumn and winter, it might not be available for use over the spring / summer;
- owing to the site conditions and operational difficulties, it was unlikely that other sports would be able to be accommodated on this site, although it was noted that no formal requests had been received from other sports;
- unauthorised use might be an issue;
- this was an area of open space which was used casually by dog walkers and other casual users and there had been no consultation undertaken with other users of the facility. The South Area Working Group had requested that the Stranmillis Residents Association and the Friends of Botanic be consulted. The use would be temporary and limited to weekends and it was noted that consultation would delay the marking out of the pitch;

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- there was no Council car parking or changing facilities available on the site. The Clubs were aware of this and had advised that they would use either the car parking at Queens or at Shaftesbury Recreation Centre; and
- a charge would be levied for use of the facility.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Boyle addressed the Committee. He requested that the Committee agree to the request from the local GAA clubs for the use of the area of land, given the number of teams which they needed to accommodate and the fact that they might be unable to use the Cherryvale Playing Fields to its full potential until the spring at the earliest.

The Committee agreed:

- ‘in principle’, to mark out the pitch, subject to discussion with the local Residents Association and the Friends of Botanic Gardens, for the period up to the end of September 2018 and subject also to favourable site conditions to be determined by the Community Park Manager;
- that the cost would be met by the Council from existing budgets, if available; and
- to a key holding agreement with the 2 GACs to allow access to the woodland area for ball retrieval as necessary.

### **Operational Issues**

#### **Street Naming**

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Mill Valley Gardens, Off Mill Valley Road, BT14.

#### **Proposal for a Dual Language Street Sign**

The Committee approved the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Conway Square, Conway Place, Devenish Court, Conway Link and David Street.

#### **Update on the Affordable Warmth Scheme**

(Mr. I. Harper, Building Control Manager, was in attendance for this item).

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 Members will be aware that Belfast City Council is engaged in a partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme. The scheme aims to address fuel poverty for the most vulnerable households in the city.**

1.2 This report provides an update on the scheme based upon further confirmation from DfC on funding for the remainder of the 2017-18 financial year.

1.3 The report also outlines the requests from DfC for councils to consider options such as shared service delivery of the scheme and the potential for councils to contribute financially towards the administration of the scheme.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

Note the contents of the report and in relation to DfC requests for consideration of a shared service model and the potential for council funding, it is recommended that:

1. The Council continues to participate in the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme on the basis of the current 11 council model.
2. The Council confirms the position that all costs associated with the administration of the scheme are provided from within the scheme budget and requests that the DfC increases the levels of funding to councils to ensure adequate staffing levels for effective delivery of the scheme.

## 3.0 Main report

### Key Issues

3.1 As previously brought to committee, correspondence issued from DfC to Councils on 29th March 2017, confirmed the reduction in the number of referrals to 25 per month be provided in Q1 (17-18), reduced from 46 per month in 16-17. The associated funding to councils was also reduced.

3.2 DfC convened a workshop on 8th June 2017 and confirmed at the meeting that funding of £15.5m was being allocated to the Affordable Warmth Scheme for 17-18. They subsequently confirmed (Appendix 1) that this would result in further changes to the target number of referrals and the associated funding per council. The number of referrals for 17-18 are shown in the table below.

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<b>Period</b>	<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Total Referrals</b>
April to June	25 per month	75
July to September	40 per month	120
October to December	40 per month	120
January to March	30 per month	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>405</b>

- 3.4** While confirmation of the funding was welcome to allow planning for the full year, the overall funding to each council for 17-18 is £73,305 for the total 405 referrals, over the year is a reduction from the £107,250 per council for 16-17.
- 3.5** It should be noted that the level of funding provided is based on a unit cost of £181 per referral. Following a partnership meeting in June 2017, a Council subgroup was tasked with a review of delivery costs and to establish an average cost per referral from Councils to the NIHE. It was established that although each Council delivers their function differently, the average cost per referral was at least £212 to provide the number of referrals, dealing with all the enquiries and contact we receive and continuing with the level of assistance to vulnerable householders through the scheme. This figure also reflects the impact of additional duties previously carried out by NIHE and are now carried out by councils.
- 3.6** The reduction in funding has led to a further reduction in staffing over the last 6 months. We have worked closely with both HR and Finance to ensure that we can provide the required level of staffing across the remainder of the year to ensure continuity of service, especially as want to retain trained and experienced staff where possible. However one member has been released (June 17), another has been reduced to part time (Oct 17) and the working patterns changed to ensure that we can provide the service required. Therefore there are currently only 1.5 staff members within the Affordable Warmth team made up of a full time co-ordinator and one part time site staff member. Note that the co-ordinator has taken on additional site duties.
- 3.7** To assist with the provision of referrals DfC have relaxed the requirement for 80% of referrals to be from the targeted list, which allows us to draw from our substantial list of self-referrals across the city. We continue to triage the referrals to ensure those most in need are referred first.
- 3.8** However the reduction in staff has meant that the target number of referrals has not been met over recent months.

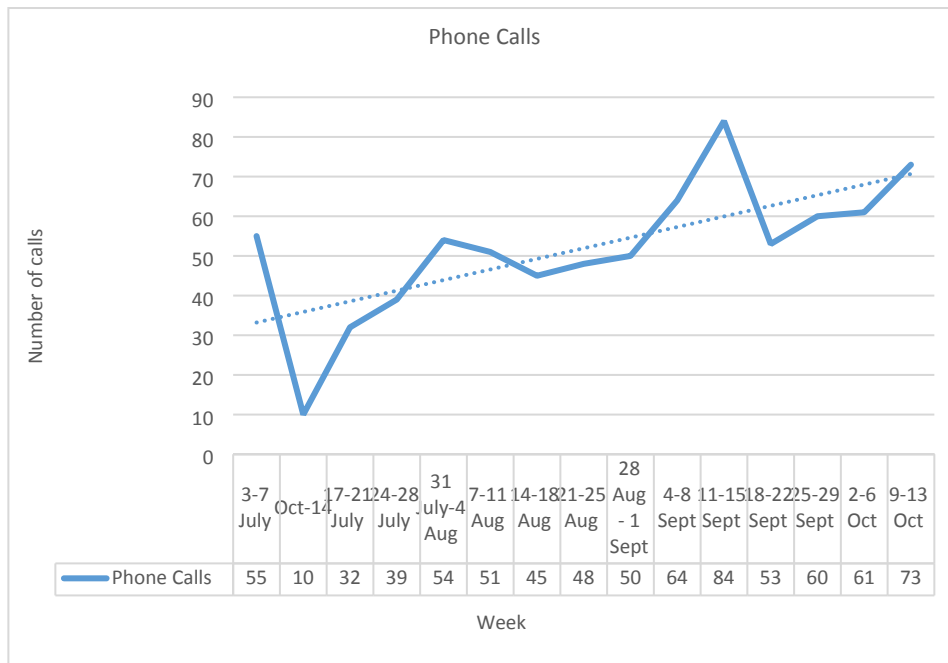
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**3.9 Table of referrals for 2017-2018**

	Target	Actual
April	25	25
May	25	25
June	25	25
July	40	40
August	40	27
September	40	36*
October	40	25

\*Note: in official figures 13 surveys from September are included in October as they were transferred on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**3.10 This is partly due to the amount of interest that there is in the scheme and the number of phone calls that are received on a daily basis, which have been increasing as we have moved toward the winter months. Figures in relation calls received are shown in the graph below:**



**3.11 With the reduction in funding for business support resources, the additional calls is impacting on the existing business support teams. Measures are being introduced to assist in streamlines calls to alleviate the situation. This may have a**

knock on impact on existing service delivery for the wider Building Control Service. Given the interest and number of calls, we are having to manage customer expectations in terms of timeframe for response as we balance this with the ability to carry out site visits.

**Future of the scheme**

- 3.12 DfC have confirmed that they will be bidding for further in year funding from the monitoring rounds, but no confirmation of additional funding has been provided at this stage.
- 3.13 The DfC have also confirmed that they are preparing a business case which would propose funding for the scheme of £125m over five years. No confirmation of funding for 2018-2019 has been received to date.
- 3.14 DfC has also asked Councils to consider ways of reducing their costs by reviewing and considering how savings can be made through the different delivery models. These include shared services or by seeking costs from other bodies which benefit from Council's involvement in the Scheme. A shared service model could involve one council coordinating the scheme for a group of councils, with site staff working across council boundaries. There are concerns that while there would be some rationalisation in staffing costs with this approach, there are risks that engagement on a local level may be more difficult. There is potential loss of local accountability and there are would be considerable initial and ongoing engagement required to run a shared service model. In addition many of the added value benefits on a local level built up across the council and other agencies could be lost.
- 3.15 DfC have also requested that Councils make a contribution towards Scheme costs. Currently BCC already make contributions to the scheme through absorbing management, office and utility provision and business support costs.
- 3.16 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- DfC have confirmed funding of £16,290 per quarter from Q2-Q4 with the possibility of additional funding being provided from future monitoring rounds. The Services HR and finance teams continue to ensure that we optimise our resources to provide the best service delivery and continuity of staffing for the scheme moving forward within the funding constraints.



**3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no equality or good relations issues.”**

The Building Control Manager addressed a number of queries in connection with the scheme and the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Provision of Temporary Transport –  
Andersonstown Leisure Centre**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 This report is to inform Committee of an option to provide temporary transport and associated costs to shuttle users affected by the closure of Andersonstown Leisure Centre to alternative leisure centres at Whiterock Leisure Centre and/or Falls Leisure Centre.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to**

**Consider the proposal and recommend whether or not it wishes officers to implement provision of transport on a pilot basis as outlined.**

**Overview**

**3.1 Andersonstown LC closed for redevelopment under the LTP on 28 May 2017. At the time it was suggested that temporary shuttle transport should be considered to take users affected by the closure to alternative centres.**

**3.2 A large percentage of users/members and user groups were retained after the Andersonstown closure as alternative accommodation and access were made available at other BCC centres. Mostly Brook, Whiterock, Falls and Olympia.**

**3.3 Having reviewed user trends at Andersonstown LC and Whiterock LC peak usage times for fitness suite throughput, swimming pool use and casual activities has been established.**

**3.4 It is extremely difficult to establish convenient transport services for all eventualities as by its nature ‘casual use’ is sporadic and spread throughout the day. The provision of an extensive service throughout the day would be cost prohibitive**

and unlikely to be justified by demand. Similar service provision was put in place following closure of the Robinson Centre in 2016 but withdrawn after a trial period as demand proved to be virtually non-existent. However, it should be accepted that local conditions, user patterns and the location of alternative centres may result in a different response in West Belfast.

Proposal

- 3.5 It is proposed that a shuttle bus service is established to take users from the Andersonstown site to Whiterock and/or Falls could be provided based on the following nine runs per week:

Morning

8.30am - 9.30am Tuesday and Thursday

Lunch Time- Adult only swim lanes

12.00pm - 1.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Evening

7.00pm - 8.00pm Wednesday

7.00pm - 8.00pm Friday

Weekend

12.00pm - 1.30pm Saturday

2.00pm - 3.30pm Sunday

The route will be established with a number of pick up/set down points.

- 3.6 As actual demand will be unknown until evidence from a trial period is available it is proposed that a service should be considered on a temporary basis with monthly review points at which future provision can be assessed and revised.

Closure Dates

- 3.7 Andersonstown LC will be closed during the new build programme for a period of 2 years up to the anticipated opening of the new centre in late 2019.

- 3.8 Finance and Resource Implications

The estimated cost of providing a shuttle bus service based on the above schedule is set out in Table 1 below. Costs are

provided for three different bus capacities and are per single return run, weekly cost and total two-year cost based of 2 X 48 week years (96 weeks) for routes from Andersonstown to Whiterock and separately from Andersonstown to Falls.

- 3.9** The current budget established within the mobilisation budget is £15,000 to cover three years. As the budget would only sustain the services for a few months, the review after the first month will be used to inform the budgetary position going forward.

**Table 1:**

	16 seat bus	24 seat bus	33 seat bus
£ per run	<b>WROC £68.74</b>	<b>WROC £79.18</b>	<b>WROC £79.37</b>
	FALLS £71.12	FALLS £81.84	FALLS £82.13
£ per week (9 runs per week)	<b>WROC £618.66</b>	<b>WROC £712.62</b>	<b>WROC £714.33</b>
	FALLS £640.08	FALLS £736.56	FALLS £739.17
£ for 2 years (48 weeks per year)	<b>WROC £59,391.36</b>	<b>WROC £68,411.52</b>	<b>WROC £68,575.68</b>
	FALLS £61,447.68	FALLS £70,709.76	FALLS £70,960.32

**3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**The temporary transport service is aimed at improving accessibility to local leisure services by addressing gaps caused by the closure of Andersonstown Leisure centre. There are no known equality or good relations implications.”**

The Committee agreed to implement the provision of transport to shuttle users affected by the closure of the Andersonstown Leisure Centre to alternative leisure centres at Whiterock Leisure Centre and /or Falls Leisure Centre. This would be on a pilot basis throughout the month of January 2018 with an update report to be considered at the February meeting.

**Increased Provision for Tree Planting**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th September, following a request from Councillor Milne, it had agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting regarding the potential for the Council to direct additional resources towards an appropriate tree planting programme throughout the City. Councillor Milne had also requested that the Council would assess the feasibility of it developing a programme of

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activities to tie in with National Tree Week which was held annually from the end of November through to early December.

The Assistant Director explained that the Council was responsible for the management of £12,500 street trees on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure and it also managed over 60,000 park trees throughout the City. She reported that, as part of the Council's Park tree management programme, health and condition tree inspections were undertaken on a cyclical basis of all the semi-mature, mature and over mature Park trees and remedial tree surgery works were carried out to include the removal of dead, diseased and dying trees. The officer explained that, when carrying out the survey, the Council's woodland officers had also identified locations within Council Parks for replacement/new tree planting schemes but unfortunately this tree planting had not taken place in recent years due to a lack of dedicated resources.

The Committee noted that £20,000 had been allocated from within existing budgets to enable the Council to undertake all outstanding replacement tree planting as well as planting new additional trees. This year's National Tree Week (NTW) theme was 'Tree Value' which was scheduled to run between 25th November and 3rd December. The Committee was advised that the Council's Parks outreach officers would be organising various trees planting and educational activities to promote the value of trees as part of the NTW at the following locations:

- Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
- Grovelands
- Half Moon Lake
- Cherryvale
- Cregagh Green
- Loopriver
- Glenbank
- Cavehill
- Water Works

Noted.

**Request for use of Alexandra Park - Lark in the Dark Event**

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received for the use of Alexandra Park on Sunday, 17th December from 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. to stage a 'Lark in the Dark' event. She advised that this would be the third year that the event would be held with approximately 100 children and parents attending. The event was aimed at young people from both communities and would consist of a Christmas trail with the participants in fancy dress. The trail would follow the paths in the lower part of the park and stop at the Peace gates. At this point there would be a photo booth and the participants would meet Santa and have their picture taken.

The Committee granted free use of Alexandra Park for the 'Lark In The Dark Event', on condition that the event organisers:

- meet all statutory requirements, including Health and Safety responsibilities; and

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- ensure that an event management plan and risk assessment are undertaken to the Council's satisfaction.

**Request for the use of Botanic Gardens –  
Belfast Children's Festival 2018**

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received for the use of Botanic Gardens from 9th to 11th March 2018 to stage the 2018 Belfast Children's Festival.

The Committee granted permission for the use of Botanic Gardens for the 20th Belfast Children's Festival, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

- the event organiser resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed; and
- an event management plan is developed to the Council's satisfaction and the organiser meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.

**Update on the Sustrans One Path Initiative**

The Assistant Director provided the Members with an update on the outcomes of the One Path Initiative which included proposals in respect of progressing the initiative.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th January 2016, it had agreed to Belfast City Council's participation in the One Path initiative. The officer advised that Sustrans had since piloted a scheme and had used the Comber Greenway to help develop a code of conduct for the use of greenways. The officer advised that the scheme included guidance for pedestrians and cyclists and focused on areas with particularly high traffic/usage.

The Members were reminded that the Comber Greenway was not owned by the Council but was under the management and operation of the Department for Regional Development (DRD). She advised that the Comber Greenway intersected with the Connswater Community Greenway in East Belfast, therefore there was an interest in developing principles for behaviours and use of greenways that could potentially be adopted, in line with Council's bye-laws, for pathways in parks and open spaces.

The Committee granted authority for Council staff to continue to work in partnership with Sustrans and the other Partners to develop and progress the scheme. It was agreed further that staff should also explore with the other Partners how the principles could be applied initially to the greenway and potentially longer term to other parks and open spaces in Belfast.

**Row on Row event at Shankill Memorial Garden**

The Committee noted that, as a late request had been received from the Old Park/ Cavehill Royal British Legion, the Director had used his delegated authority for the

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organisers to hold a commemoration event, Row and Row, each evening from Monday, 6th to Friday, November, except Thursday, 10th at the Shankill Memorial Garden.

A Member suggested that groups who regularly applied for the use of Council parks/facilities should be reminded of the protocol and deadlines for the submission of requests to enable them to be considered by the Committee.

**Fields in Trust (verbal update)**

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that she had just been advised earlier in the day that Cregagh Green had been shortlisted for an award from Fields in Trust.

The Committee granted authority for the Chairperson (or his nominee) and an officer to attend the Awards Ceremony, in London, on 28th November.

Chairperson

# People and Communities Committee

Monday, 13th November, 2017

## SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors Armitage, Corr, Copeland, Heading and Lyons.

Also attended: The High Sherriff (Alderman Haire);  
Alderman Kingston; and  
Councillors Johnston and McAteer.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Mr. S. Leonard, Environmental Health Manager; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Newton, Nicholl and McReynolds.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Presentation

#### Northern Ireland Housing Executive –

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. J. Hawthorne (Belfast Regional Manager), Mr. R. Hawe (North Region Place Shaper) and Mr. C. Smyth (Team Leader, Housing Solutions) representing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). He commenced by congratulating Mrs. Hawthorne on her recent promotion to Regional Manager for Belfast.

Mrs. Hawthorne thanked the Chairman and stated that she looked forward to working with the Council in her new role.

Mr. Smyth provided the Members with a presentation on the Social Housing Enterprise Programme. He commenced by outlining the programme strategy as follows:

- to develop and support social enterprises and entrepreneurs to access funding and business support;
- to create opportunities for social enterprises to deliver key outcomes that would impact positively on Housing Executive communities; and

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- to encourage Partnership arrangements with other organisations in the social enterprise sector.

He proceeded to highlight the tiered financial awards that were available and also explained the application process:

- Small Awards -education, training and business awards up to £1000.00 (open all year round);
- Large Awards -emerging social enterprises up to £10,000;  
-embryonic social enterprises up to £20,000; and  
-established social enterprises up to £50,000.

The representative advised that, in terms of Belfast Investment during the current Programme, thirteen new social enterprises had been established, seventeen existing social enterprises had been supported and forty-five new jobs had been created.

Mr. Smyth concluded by advising that a review of the Social Housing Enterprise Programme was currently ongoing and scheduled to be completed in November 2017. At this stage, NIHE Board approval would be sought to commence with the next three-year strategy, 2019-2022. He stated that it was anticipated that this new Programme would see stronger partnership arrangements with statutory agencies, including the Council.

The representative addressed a number of questions regarding the Programme following which he left the meeting.

**Update report on the New Build Programme**

The Members were presented with an update report on the Social Housing Development Programme for the period 2017/2018 which included the following details:

- social housing competitions (226 units);
- social housing units under construction (812 units);
- social housing starts in 2017/18 (14 units); and
- programmed to starts in 2017/18 (gross programme) (543 units).

During Members' questions, the Committee was appraised regarding the availability of land, the housing of tenants with disabilities, the difficulties experienced in South Belfast due to the affordability of housing and the role of the private rental sector and housing associations.

Arising from discussion in respect of new programmes and housing need, Mr. Hawe advised that the NIHE endeavoured to target areas with the greatest housing need, however, in reality this was often dictated by land availability and affordability.

Following a query regarding Minnowburn House, a vacant property which was currently owned by the local Health Trust, the Housing Executive undertook to explore if the Health Trust would be willing to transfer the asset to the NIHE to enable it to be used for social housing and to report back to the Member directly.



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

- the loss of open space in Twinbrook and other areas due to the significant demand for additional housing in specific areas;
- the potential to consider green field sites outside the Council boundary considering it on balance with the promotion of City Centre living and regeneration;
- the lack of green open spaces within housing developments in the City;
- the severe shortage of social housing in West Belfast;
- an update in respect of the Visteon site and Glen 10 Development; and
- noted that an economic appraisal was currently being undertaken in respect of derelict flats on Belvoir Drive (Belvoir bedsits) with a view to the building being demolished and replaced with new social housing.

The NIHE representative advised that many of the Housing Executive's plans were complementary to the Council's Community Planning themes and could contribute to the achievements of the Community Planning outcomes. She recognised the important role of the Housing Executive working in partnership with the Council to achieve the vision outlined in the Belfast Agenda.

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

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

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## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 8th November, 2017

### 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, Graham, Hargey, Howard, Johnston,  
Kyle, Magee, McAteer, Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

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

#### **Apologies**

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor McDonough-Brown.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 11th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

#### **Presentations**

##### **Festivals and Events International (FEI)**

The Committee was advised that, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 9th August, representatives from Festivals and Events International (FEI) were in attendance to provide the Committee with an update on the ongoing review of the Events and Festivals Strategy for the city.

The Chairperson introduced Mr. N. Dodds, Managing Director of FEI, and Mrs. D. Close, Lead Consultant, to the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Managing Director advised the Committee that he had thirty years' experience in the events and festivals sector, having been the General Manager of the Edinburgh Festival for 10 years and Chief Executive of the Brighton Festival for 8 years and that, for the past ten years, had been providing advice on the sector to authorities and local governments around the world. He advised the Committee that Ms. Close had 22 years'

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experience of working in the events sector, having formerly been a Head of Service in Brighton and Hove City Council and having worked as an Events Producer.

The Managing Director provided the Committee with an outline of their brief and methodology, which included a review of the City's portfolio, consideration of delivery structures, consideration of the decision making criteria, consultation with stakeholders, benchmarking against other cities and impact modelling. They advised that, eventually, this work would lead to a new Events and Festivals Strategy for Belfast, 2018-2023.

He highlighted to the Committee that they were keen to hear the Members' views on the work which had been carried out to date and that this engagement with Members formed an important part of the consultation process.

The Lead Consultant outlined that they had classified all events into six categories, namely, mega, major, signature, growth, local and neighbourhood events. She explained that, through their research, they had determined that over 70% of the events which Belfast had hosted were local and neighbourhood events, 25% were growth events, 1% were major events, such as the MTV Awards, and that it had hosted no globally-recognised 'mega' events, such as the Olympics.

The Committee was advised that benchmarking had taken place against similar sized cities, including Galway, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Aarhus and Rotterdam, in terms of investment and practices. She outlined to the Committee that they had compared the amount which each Council invested in its city events and how many of those events that the Council had produced.

In response to a Member's question regarding the engagement which had taken place with those working in the events and festivals sector in Belfast, the Lead Consultant advised the Committee that, while they had been disappointed with the low number of survey responses which they had received so far, they had met with 67 stakeholders face to face. She advised that this had included engagement with 24 officers from numerous sections across the Council, 8 representatives from the Departments for Communities and the Economy, 5 representatives from business groups within the city, representatives from Visit Belfast, Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland, and around 20 participants at the festival forum steering group.

The Member stated that she was concerned at the low level of response to the survey which had been sent out to those who were involved in the organisation of festivals in the City.

The Managing Director of FEI suggested that, while he did not know why so few responses had been received, in his experience, those involved in organising festivals were often small groups which heavily depended on volunteers and might not have the resources nor the time to respond to the survey.

The Director of Development advised the Committee that, following the last Committee meeting, he had asked FEI to specifically engage with EastSide Arts and Féile an Phobail, and that consultation with those organisations was ongoing.

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The Chief Executive reminded the Members that a parallel piece of work was ongoing to review the Council's grants process. She advised the Committee that this would be brought together with the work of FEI at a later date.

In response to requests from a number of Members, the consultants agreed to analyse the postcodes of the completed surveys and that they would endeavour to engage with those communities which had not yet participated in the consultation. The Members also requested that further engagement with Members also take place.

The Managing Director of FEI advised the Members that the draft Events and Festivals Strategy 2018-2023 would be submitted for the Committee's consideration at its meeting in January, 2018.

The Committee noted:

1. the contents of the presentation; and
2. agreed that the officers and consultants would consider ways in which they could engage with the Members and with festival organisers who had not already been directly engaged with through the consultation process.

**Growing Businesses and the Economy**

**Events and Festivals Funding**

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 9th August, it had agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that priority be given to the following events and festivals when it was considering in-year re-allocations, totalling £270,000:

- Gradam Ceoil 2018/19: £50,000
- Féile an Phobail 2018/19: £180,000; and
- Other Voices 2018/19: £40,000.

He outlined that, in the intervening period, a number of other organisations had approached the Council seeking funding for the following initiatives:

- EastSide Arts Festival: £40,000
- C.S. Lewis Festival: £40,000;
- Belfast Tattoo: £25,000;
- First World War Commemorative Event: £35,000; and
- Every Day Remembered: £138,840.

A Member stated that they would be supportive of the five events being added to the priority list but that, in the interest of fairness, both sets of events should receive the same amount of money in total.

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A further Member disagreed and stated that event funding should not be split evenly and allocated on the assumption that certain events were for one section of the community and other events were for another section.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees to recommend that the five requests be added to the priority list for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's consideration of in-year re-allocations and, in order to ensure equality, that the Committee agrees to allocate an additional £8,000 towards Féile an Phobail, so that each set of events receives the same amount, that is, £278,000.

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

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

1. recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that priority be given to the five named events and festivals when considering in-year reallocations, based on the half year financial position; and
2. notes that the events would be added to the list which had previously been agreed by the Committee.

### **Employability and Skills Forward Planning**

(Mrs. R. Rea, Economic Development Unit, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

##### **1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- **Update Members on the proposed approach for Council to advance the Employability and Skills workstream through a phased approach, in line with Belfast Agenda commitments and the emerging priorities of the Belfast Region City Deal;**
- **Identify mechanisms for Elected Member engagement in the process of developing the key elements of this workstream**
- **Advise Members of the job creation impacts of the work to date (550 new jobs created in the first six months of the year) and the potential to increase the impact of this**

work, subject to partnership engagement and additional resources.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note and approve the principle of the phased development of the Council’s Employability and Skills workstream;
- Agree to participate in a process of engagement to inform the content of the future work programme, including a detailed workshop in the new year.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 Employability and Skills development is a core priority of the Belfast Agenda, principally within the ‘Working and Learning’ theme. Equally, the principal ambition of ‘inclusive growth’ – whilst not exclusively focused upon employability – recognises that, for many individuals, the benefits of economic growth are experienced through accessing a job and moving up the career ladder, and that employment is a key route out of poverty.**

**3.2 Over the next four years, the Belfast Agenda sets ambitious targets for economic growth focusing upon new job creation and private sector investment alongside targets to improve skills attainment (with a particular focus on lower level skills), and to address social and educational inequalities. One of the biggest targets to be achieved in the next four years is to reduce the economic inactivity rate in Belfast to 23%. In real terms, this will mean moving 7,500 individuals who are not currently working into employment – many of whom have not worked for a long time.**

**3.3 The Council has been scaling up its level of investment year-on-year over the last few years. Additional staff resources have also been recruited to deliver on this programme of work. The following headline targets are expected to be achieved in the financial year 2017/18;**

- More than 1,000 residents are expected to enter employment (550 jobs created to date)
- 4,000 residents will be engaged through employability interventions and early engagement projects

- **Over 1,000 students and young people to be engaged through career events and digital skills programmes and over 290 work experience opportunities to be provided through the Council and key employers across the city.**

**3.4 While there is widespread support for the Council assuming a more significant strategic and operational role on Employability and Skills issues, it is important to be aware of some of the challenges associated with this. These include:**

- **The Council does not have statutory responsibility (for education, employability and/or skills development). It will therefore be important to work in partnership with those who do have the authority and budgetary resources in order to achieve the quantum of change required. If the Council is to deliver on its ambitions, there will be significant financial implications going forward;**
- **Policy approaches to education and Employability and Skills development take place in isolation, reflecting the demarcation of responsibilities across government departments such as Department of Education (DoE), Department for the Economy (DfE) and Department for Communities (DfC);**
- **The operational environment is competitive and participant-focused. This results in a variety of mainstream, regionally-funded programmes and numerous smaller-scale initiatives targeting specific geographical areas, client group(s) or sectors. As an example, a recent review of employer engagement programmes across the various government departments identified more than 160 publicly-funded interventions;**
- **Research with employers suggests that they are often unaware of the breadth of support available and are also unable to differentiate between the various interventions. They would prefer a solution that is based on their business needs, as opposed to the participant needs or the narrow range of services offered by individual organisations.**

**3.5 It is proposed that the Council approach should be based on the following principles:**

- **It should be principally employer-led, focusing on identified employment opportunities and gaps in provision. This will present the greatest opportunity for success for those engaging in the interventions;**



- Once the opportunities are identified by employers, we need to take a needs-based approach to client/participant engagement. This is critical if we are going to deliver against the principles of 'inclusive growth', targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or client groups;
- It will be important to take account of the challenges around low pay in the City. Recognising that some of the sectors that are attractive to those with low skills often have the reputation of low pay, it will be important to consider how we can work with employers to support upskilling of employees. This will enhance pay rates and will also create additional entry-level opportunities;
- Our approach must be ambitious: we need to increase visibility and awareness of Council's role within this environment and strategically build our position in this area;
- The Council's intervention should add value and should not duplicate existing provision. It needs to be flexible to meet the wide-ranging needs of participants.

3.6 It is proposed that this work will evolve over the short to medium-term. In order to give Members a sense of the proposed direction of travel, a phased approach is set out below. This approach has been based on a number of key milestones for mainstream programmes as well emerging opportunities to lever additional resources from public sector partners and from the private sector, principally through developer contributions (subject to legal advice). An overview of these 'phases' is available on [modern.gov](http://modern.gov).

**Phase 1: April 2017-March 2019**

- 3.7 The current delivery approach of the Council is based on adding value to existing market provision, with a focus on outreach to key target groups as well as employer engagement. For example, Employment Academies currently utilise leveraged funding from ESF projects to undertake the early engagement work and basic skills development support while the Council funding is used to support the employer-led training activity.
- 3.8 Officers tested out this approach in the 2016/17 financial year with seven pilot programmes involving around 100 unemployed individuals. The results of these interventions demonstrated that more than 60% of those participating in the

Academies found a job. This compares with around 25% of those taking part in ESF-only schemes.

- 3.9 The upshot of this successful pilot is that Council has now been asked to become the *de facto* training and recruitment partner for a number of the new hotels that are scheduled to open in the coming months. We are in the process of helping the Hastings Group (for Grand Central Hotel) and Dalata (for the new Maldron Hotel) to fill 200 jobs in these new hotels. Other hotel partners are also approaching us and this is quickly becoming a recognised solution for entry-level job creation in this sector.
- 3.10 We are also imminently launching new Construction Academies on behalf of Heron Bros (Leisure Transformation Capital Contract) and for Translink (Transport Hub project) and are currently scoping an extensive 'Social Care Academy' given the projected jobs growth in this field.
- 3.11 There is a significant opportunity to consider how the outreach and engagement work and the employer engagement activity can align to the Local Area Working approach that is currently being developed. In all of the designated areas, issues of low skills, lack of employment opportunities and lack of positive role models have been identified as challenges facing residents. By looking at the development activity in the areas through an employability lens, there is an opportunity not only to support physical improvements in but also to create sustainable employment opportunities and improve skills levels.

Phase 2: April 2019 – March 2021

- 3.12 There are a number of mainstream government contracts that are scheduled to come to an end during this period or just in advance of 2019. These include the Apprenticeships NI contract and the Training for Success contract (focusing on provision for young people aged 16-18). Discussions are progressing within government departments around the issue of 'Traineeships' as well as expanding the 'Apprenticeships' provision. This can present opportunities to look at opportunities for local contracting (based on Council boundaries) as well as developing programmes that align to local labour-market intelligence (i.e. quotas and targets for certain sectors, in line with research projections). It is expected this approach would involve the joint development of city targets, alignment of interventions to local needs/opportunities and measurement of localised impacts.

- 3.13 The Universal Credit transition period is scheduled to end in April 2020 for existing claimants (new claimants will automatically transfer to Universal Credit from May 2018). Given the very localised nature of benefits uptake in some part of the City, it will be important to work closely with the Department for Communities to mitigate against any potential negative impact on the sustainability of local communities.
- 3.14 Work will also be expanded on higher skills development. Activities are likely to include internship programmes, roll-out of Higher Level Apprenticeships in key growth sectors in partnership with DfE and other targeted initiatives as informed by skills gaps, particularly those at levels 3-5. To fulfil the commitment within the Belfast Agenda, it is also intended to explore the potential of a 'City Pledge', securing partner commitment to help young people to find positive employment or training outcomes.

**Phase 3: April 2021 – March 2023**

- 3.15 During this phase of delivery, the current European Social Fund (ESF) funding will conclude (March 2022). Consideration will need to be given to how the outreach and engagement work can be supported in the absence of these resources.
- 3.16 At this stage, we will need to consider how the support programmes can be offered as an 'end-to-end' provision. This will involve bringing together partners so that employers and clients can have access to a 'one stop shop' for employment and skills development solutions. In-work progression schemes will also be developed to encourage up-skilling of the existing workforce, aligned to key growth sectors and focusing on areas when known skills gaps exist.
- 3.17 The phased approach outlined above (3.7-3.15) illustrates the transition from programme-based interventions towards a more coherent programme of work. This is likely to require additional investment if we are to make a meaningful impact. It is the intention that funding will be levered from other government resources (Invest NI, Urban Villages, Peace IV etc.) as well as through developer contributions (subject to legal advice). However, the Council will need to consider allocating additional resources towards this priority activity as part of the upcoming rates setting process.
- 3.18 Taking account of the complexity of these issues as well as the political ambition for the Council to play a key role in this work, it is proposed that there is an ongoing programme of engagement with Members as part of the process of

developing the detail that will sit under these broad priority areas of focus set out above. This is likely to be done through a series of workshops and Special Committee meetings, with any decisions coming to this Committee for endorsement. If this approach is approved by Members, Officers will put together a programme of workshops and engagement sessions with a view to securing endorsement on the detailed programme of work by the start of the new financial year. This will, of course, be an evolutionary process as the external environment and the economy change, but it is the intention that this additional engagement with Members will help build an understanding of the key issues and lead to informed decision-making on how to best allocate our resources to deliver on the City ambitions in this area of work.

#### City Deal

- 3.19 The proposed Belfast Region City Deal provides the opportunity to take a longer-term approach to addressing Employability and Skills challenges across the six Council area. As part of the development activity on the City Deal, preparatory work is being undertaken on an Intelligence Model which will inform the Employability and Skills priorities of the six Council area. Officers have also explored the Employability and Skills programmes within other cities that have secured City Deals and we will use this work to inform the investment proposals for the Belfast Region City Deal. It is proposed that this information should also be part of the engagement process with Elected Members on these issues.

#### Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.20 Members should be aware that the expansion of the Employability and Skills work stream will require an increase in the current budget allocated to this area. This increase in budget will be managed through the annual estimates process. Additionally, it is recognised that new income streams will need to be developed to support Employability and Skills. This will involve leveraging funding from Central Government, as well as new income streams such as developer contributions, once this policy approach is agreed.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.21 Activities above will be agreed and reviewed with the Equality and Good Relations Officers.”

In relation to the new Construction Academies which the Council would run on behalf of Heron Bros, a Member stated that they were at a Workshop promoting the

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Academy that morning. She outlined to the Committee that it would commence in January 2018, training up to 30 people, with priority being given to the economically inactive and long-term unemployed. She explained that 14 jobs were already available, through the Leisure Transformation Capital Contract, for those who successfully completed the training through the academy, and that other companies within the industry had expressed their desire to also get involved.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Council's employability schemes and how it had chosen to focus on the hospitality and construction sectors, the Director of Development advised the Committee that officers had looked at the applications which had been approved by the Planning Committee, as this provided a good preview of upcoming jobs within the city.

The Director highlighted that there were currently over 160 different employment and skills programmes across the city. He advised the Members that the Council was working with a number of those organisations to upskill those in training in order to meet the demands of employers. He also highlighted the importance of the Council's flexibility in its approach and the need to ensure that services were not being duplicated.

During discussion of the other sectors which the Council could seek to focus on, the Director outlined the increasing importance of the digital sector and also advised the Members that a Pilot Health and Social Care Academy had been established and currently had 35 jobs available.

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

**Requests to present to Committee/Meetings Schedule**

**Requests to Present to Committee - Special meetings**

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

The Senior Democratic Services Officer outlined to the Committee that its previous meeting had lasted almost five hours due to the mixture of business on the agenda, which had included three presentations. He explained that a number of Members had complained about the length of the meeting and the fact that some of the important matters which appeared later on the agenda had not been given proper consideration due to the length of time spent on earlier items, particularly the deputations.

The Committee was advised that it had already agreed to receive a further five presentations over the next two months.

He outlined to the Members that the Committee might wish to consider implementing a time limit for presentations, schedule monthly Special meetings or retain the current position. He also pointed out that the Members might wish to consider an earlier commencement time for the meetings.

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During discussion, it was felt that introducing a time limit for presentations was impractical due to the nature of the deputations which presented to the Committee, and particularly in relation to the questions afterwards from the Members.

In relation to the scheduling of monthly Special meetings, the Senior Democratic Services Officer pointed out that the schedule of meetings for 2018 could be amended to include a Special meeting each month, to be held only if required, to receive presentations and would not include any other items of business.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

1. the commencement time of the Committee would remain at 5.15pm;
2. a maximum of one presentation would be added to the agenda for each monthly meeting;
3. where 2 or more presentations were scheduled for any month, a Special meeting would be held and would not include any other items of business which would normally be considered at the monthly meeting;
4. a Special meeting to receive presentations would be scheduled each month, except July, and would be cancelled in a timely manner if it was not required; and
5. a list of Special meetings, from January – December 2018 (excluding July), would be submitted to the next meeting.

**Schedule of Meetings 2018**

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee during 2018 and agreed that it would meet at 5.15 p.m. on those dates:

- Wednesday, 10th January;
- Wednesday, 7th February;
- Wednesday, 7th March;
- Wednesday, 11th April;
- Wednesday, 9th May;
- Wednesday, 13th June;
- (No meeting in July);
- Wednesday, 8th August;
- Wednesday, 12th September;
- Wednesday, 10th October;
- Wednesday, 7th November; and
- Wednesday, 5th December.

**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**

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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 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 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Request to Present: BelTel LLP**

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from BelTel LLP and its appointed design team, at a future meeting, on the development proposal for the former Belfast Telegraph site and the associated branding and engagement for the scheme.

**Request to Present: Transport NI**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th August, it had acceded to a request from NI Water to present at a future meeting. The Committee was advised that Transport NI had recently been in contact to present its Autumn Report to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the Committee had previously agreed to hold Special City Infrastructure meetings, as and when required, to receive presentations from outside bodies such as Transport NI and NI Water.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to hold a Special meeting in December, to which all Members would be invited to attend, to receive a presentation from NI Water and to receive the Autumn Report from Transport NI. The Committee also agreed that the previous item, a presentation from BelTel LLP and its appointed design team, would be added to the agenda of the Special meeting.

**Regenerating the City and Improving Infrastructure**

**Transport Update**

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

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 York Street Interchange**

**To provide an update on the York Street Interchange (YSI) strategic road improvement scheme, the outcome of the Public Inquiry and the Council’s ongoing involvement in the next stages.**

**1.2 Operation times of loading bays – Belfast City Centre**

Dfl has requested views on a proposal to relax operation times of the loading bay restrictions in the city centre with a view to reducing the existing 'at any time' restrictions to allow general parking in the bays in the evening / overnight.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the YSI update and the ongoing participation of Council officers in the process; and;
- Consider the proposed response to the loading bays consultation outlined in Para 3.8- 3.10 and, if appropriate, agree this response for submission to Dfl.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) is developing the York Street Interchange strategic road improvement scheme to improve links between the Westlink, M2 and M3 routes and remove a bottleneck on the strategic network. The estimated cost of the scheme is between £125 and £165 million. The development of the scheme has been progressing since 2008 and the Council provided formal responses to public consultation processes held in June 2011 and in March 2015.**

**3.2 Dfl also established a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) in January 2015 to consider and advise on aesthetic aspects of the proposed scheme and Council officers have been represented on this group. Council officers also made representations on key issues during a Public inquiry held from the 10th to 12th November 2015.**

**3.3 During the public inquiry Council officers made representations on the following issues:**

- the need for careful design to reduce the visual impact of the interchange and to enhance connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. It was emphasised that York Street interchange scheme should secure the enhancement of the wider environment to support improved connectivity for adjacent communities and these improvements should be included in the overall project budgets.
- Air quality - the York Street Interchange scheme has been identified as one of the principal measures to



include in the new Belfast plan to improve air quality in that area. The Council agreed to carry out further monitoring in the adjoining residential areas.

- Noise and vibration - the need for the detailed construction programme including proposals for the chosen piling methods and hours of proposed works to be communicated and agreed with the Council well in advance of works commencing.
- Contaminated land - the Council is broadly satisfied with the Transport NI's management strategy towards ground contamination and towards the mitigation of risk posed by contaminated land.

3.4 Following the completion of the public inquiry, the Inspector's report was published and the inspector made the following recommendations relating to Council representations:

- DfI Roads to liaise with the Council throughout the remainder of the design phase and construction phase;
- DfI Roads to consider necessary resources to incorporate design and aesthetic changes identified by the SAG group;
- DfI Roads to continue to liaise with the Council regarding procedures for managing noise and vibration; and
- DfI Roads to continue to liaise with the Council regarding future analytical results of any ground and hydrogeological groundwater monitoring.

3.5 The Department acknowledged the inspector's recommendations and agreed to progress the project in line with the recommendations. Further information on the inspector's recommendations and Department responses are outlined [here](#). A summary of Council responses to the York Street Interchange scheme is outlined [here](#).

3.6 As a result, the Strategic Advisory group has been reconvened with further representation invited from the local community and the first meeting took place on the 22nd September 2017. The main aim of the group is to provide a Forum to:

- Consider the integration of the scheme with other government agencies and private initiatives to maximise future redevelopment opportunities;
- Develop the detail of the aesthetics of the scheme, having regard to the scheme's objectives, the

inspectors report, the Departmental statement and feedback from local community engagement.

3.7 It should be noted that a letter has been received from local community representatives outlining concern about noise and the impact of the construction of the scheme on the adjoining residential areas. Council officers from the Environmental Protection Unit have agreed to meet with the residents to discuss the concerns.

3.8 Loading Bays

The Dfi is considering relaxing operation times of the Loading Bays restrictions in the city centre with a view to reducing the existing '*at any time*' restrictions to allow general parking in the bays in the evening / overnight. The loading bays affected are located in Wellington St, Chichester St, Fisherwick Place, Queen St, Upper Queen St, Upper Arthur St, Linenhall St and Bedford St.

3.9 It is proposed that the Council generally welcomes the proposal as it will provide extra capacity for residents and visitors to access the city centre in the evening and night time and support the evening economy. Car access in the off peak period would not be seen as detrimental to air quality or the city centre environment. However, it should be noted that the delivery times for the city centre are 6pm to 11am so the relaxation of the restriction could mean that cars may be parked in loading bays which are required by businesses to make evening or late night deliveries. Therefore, it is recommended that the consultation process should liaise closely with the businesses along the frontages to ensure it does not impact on deliveries.

3.10 It should be noted that any parking within the city centre can have negative impacts on cleansing operations in this area. Cleansing vehicles (mainly in the form of mechanical sweepers) need access to footpaths, pavements, roads and road channels and sometimes the only opportunity for them to access particular city centre areas are during night time hours. However, it is considered that the areas proposed are not significant.

3.11 Finance & Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications

**None associated with this report.”**

In relation to a Member’s question regarding how the York Street Interchange would improve the air quality, the Planning and Transport Officer advised the Committee that the Interchange would remove a bottleneck in the area, thereby creating free-flowing traffic and significantly lower level of stationary vehicular exhaust fumes.

A further Member welcomed the proposal from the Department for Infrastructure to relax the operation times of the loading bay restrictions in the city centre to allow general parking in the bays in the evening or overnight.

Another Member requested that the Council’s response would include a suggestion that clearer signage was required in relation to the restrictions which existed in relation to vehicles parking in loading bays.

It was further suggested that a number of vans were regularly parked on Ann Street on weekday mornings and that this surely had an impact on traders in the area. The Chief Executive advised that this could be discussed with Belfast City Centre Management.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the York Street Interchange update and the ongoing participation of Council officers in the process;
2. agreed the proposed response to the loading bays consultation, outlined in Paragraphs 3.8 - 3.10 of the report, with the addition of a request for clearer signage outlining the parking restrictions at loading bays; and
3. agreed its submission to the Department for Infrastructure.

### **Positioning Belfast to Compete**

#### **NI Science Festival**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on a request for sponsorship for the 2018 Northern Ireland Science Festival based on the success of the 2017 event. The festival will take place from 15 to 25 February 2018 in venues across the city and throughout Northern Ireland.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the contents of this report and**

- **Agree to allocate £35,000 from existing budgets for festivals of this nature, to the Northern Ireland Science Festival 2018 as per the agreement in October 2016.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Background**

**The Northern Ireland Science Festival has been taking place annually since 2015. The 2017 event took place over 11 days in February 2017. It offered over 180 events across a wide range of venues, presenting local and international work that focused on a wide range of themes including science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The daytime programme targeted children and young people with workshops, talks and interactive activities while, in the evening, the Festival presented an eclectic mix of science debates, talks, theatre, comedy and music to engage youth groups as well as adults and families.**

**3.2 The event was organised by Science Festivals NI, a unique collaboration of major STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) outreach organisations in Northern Ireland. Belfast’s exceptional higher level skills talent pool is the primary reason why investors choose the city. Events such as the NI Science Festival help grow collaborations between such organisations and individuals, showcasing Belfast in a positive light. Funding for the event was provided by a number of organisations including the then Department for Employment and Learning, the British Council, Queen’s University and the Ulster University and Belfast City Council.**

**3.3 Science Festivals are a relatively new type of event that is growing in popularity worldwide, with cities such as New York, Edinburgh, San Francisco and Dubai hosting large scale events as part of their wider cultural frameworks. In 2015, the inaugural NI Science Festival joined this international group by becoming the largest festival of its kind on the island of Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. Since the first Festival in 2015, the event has continued to go from strength to strength.**

**3.4 Since it was established in 2015, the festival has continued to exceed agreed targets, and successfully competing with other established science festivals.**

**3.5 Evaluation of the 2017 achieved the following :**

- Audience numbers of 63,000 exceeded the 2017 target of 60,000 set out in the funding agreement;
- 182 events took place across a range of venues, with approximately 85% of audiences coming to events taking place in Belfast;
- 94% of attendees indicated that they would visit the Festival again, with 71% of survey respondents indicating that they were more likely to pursue or encourage others to pursue a career in STEM following the Festival;
- The Festival's wide ranging programme is designed to reach a wide demographic. The Festival's audience is made up of young people (40%), adults, teachers and parents (51%) and schools (9%);
- As a percentage of the audience, the number of extensive engagements rose to 63% of the audience (compared to 39% in 2016) which equates to an additional 9760 tickets sold compared to 2016 figures (30,714 tickets sold in 2016);
- An analysis of postcodes from across the UK indicates a significant section of the Festival audience came from England, with London proving to be a particular hotspot;
- The Festival's growing international reputation meant that it was able to attract some of the top names in science, resulting in headline acts that attracted international attention.
- Several out of state visitors visited Belfast to observe the Festival as a model of best practice. The Norwegian Research Council sent a team of 50 people to the Festival for five days to learn how the Festival operates while the British Council also brought a delegation of 52 Newton Fund scholars from across 8 countries to the Festival;
- The Festival's media coverage increased dramatically from previous years with 114 print, 82 online and 11 broadcast items. The total PR value of coverage received by the Festival was equivalent to £349,229.79, a notable increase from £47.5k in 2016.

**3.6 Proposed 2018 Programme**

The 2018 Festival will take place from 15 - 25 February 2018. The core objective of the Festival continues to be a commitment to reaching a broad and diverse audience to

increase the accessibility of science and to promote learning. This is in line with the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda to improve skills and employability, make the city an attractive location for investors and improve vibrancy and city animation. This will once again be achieved through a series of events and partnerships that link science into different areas of interest.

**3.7 The Programme themes include:**

- Tech and Digital – linking with local companies and international experts, this theme consists of talks, debates and workshops on areas such as coding;
- Engineering and robotics – highlighting the advances in engineering and robotics across Belfast, including some of the unique strengths of Belfast businesses in this field;
- Food Science – attracting a new audience through events linking with local restaurants, cafes and venues, including as St George’s Market;
- Art and Science - a number of events will focus on the crossover between art and science. This theme is centred around an exhibition and workshops by the Festival’s ‘artist in residence’ as well as a celebration of Lillian Bland by the Ulster Orchestra;
- The Festival will also host events on photography, invention, history and wildlife in addition to the core themes such as mathematics, physics and space.

**3.8 There are opportunities for a number of the Council’s services to engage with the Science Festival to promote their work in innovative ways, particularly to young audiences, and to engage more residents around key issues for the city. These may include the support programmes on education and skills, profiling Council’s business start-up and business growth programmes and profiling ‘investing in Belfast’. There may also be opportunities for community engagement activity, managing waste and food waste in particular, supporting active communities and promoting mobility and encouraging access to arts and culture for all residents. In addition, the innovative nature of many of the events – alongside the flagship events already lined up – will act as an attraction for people coming from outside of the city into Belfast, for the purpose of attending some of these specific events or associated activities. A postcode analysis for the Festival indicates that a large proportion of the previous Festival’s audiences come from outside Belfast.**

**3.9 The success of the 2017 event has helped to secure international events with a high calibre of speakers for the 2018 programme.**

**3.10 These include:**

- Talks by the 21st century's most famous Astronaut Chris Hadfield;**
- A specific focus on women in STEM;**
- A partnership with the BBC around employability and skills, with opportunities to link to the Council work in this area;**
- The annual Turing Lecture hosted in Belfast City Hall;**
- A 'artist in residence' programme in partnership with the British Council ;**
- Several events focused on key issues in tech such as cyber security, smart cities and the internet of things;**
- A partnership with Belfast Zoo, 'Zoo Ambassador' day. Behind the scenes partnership work with Queen's University Belfast and the Zoo's Animal Welfare Programmes alongside the 'Get 'bee-hind' bee conservation project and the Red Squirrel conservation project;**
- Programmed workshop in partnership with Bounce Culture. The workshops will be aimed at Young People within Belfast and will be focused around digital technology, beat making techniques and visual art;**
- Second year partnership with the Botanic Gardens Belfast aligned to the re-opening of the Tropical Ravine;**
- Titanic Belfast STEM Quest Final. Aimed at school children throughout Northern Ireland at Key Stage 3 Level.**

**3.11 The Festival has strong alignment with the city's investment, education, skills and tourism priorities as outlined in the Belfast Agenda, the Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 and the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy. In particular, this is achieved through an emphasis on skills and educational attainment, international profiling, city events and programming. The message is consistent with the city positioning work which is has created a new narrative for Belfast that is based on the quality of its talent, reflecting its rich industrial heritage and its emerging specialisms in new technologies.**

**3.12 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

There are no specific equality or good relations considerations attached to this report.

**3.13 Financial and Resource Implications**

The total budget for the Festival is estimated at £237,000. Funding of £83,000 has been secured from the Department for the Economy (this includes £50,000 of core funding), £5,000 from the British Council, £20,000 respectively from Queen's University and Ulster University. A further £19,000 has been secured from Tourism NI alongside £10,000 from the Matrix Panel and £10,000 from Corporate sponsors MCS recruitment. The Festival anticipates ticket sales to generate around £35,000. The allocation requested from Belfast City Council is £35,000, in line with the awards made since 2015. This funding is available within existing Departmental budget estimates."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Strategic and Operational Issues**

**Committee Plan 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 provide a 6-month progress report on the key actions contained in the City Growth & Regeneration Committee Plan, as agreed by Committee in June 2017. In particular, it will highlight the impact of the work undertaken in terms of jobs growth, skills development, cultural investment and physical regeneration. The headline figure is that almost 800 jobs were created as a direct result of the Council's investment over this period.
- 1.2 The Plan draws together several annual delivery plans; such as city centre development, support for businesses, Employability & Skills, tourism and the cultural framework. It sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee will oversee during 2017-18 to maximise the Council's contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda that, at its core, has a commitment to inclusive growth.



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

- Our city is home to an additional 66,000 new residents
- Our urban economy supports 46,000 more jobs
- There will be a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.

**1.4 This report sets out the progress against the programmes and projects aligned to the delivery of the 4 key work streams in the Belfast Agenda: Growing the Economy, City Development, Working & Learning and Living Here. Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov) provides an overview of the main commitments under each priority workstream.**

**1.5 In addition, there are a number of stretch goals which together with city partners, this Committee will make a significant contribution to deliver on by 2021:**

- Create 15,000 new jobs
- Attract over £1bn in private sector investment, including FDI
- Create 4,000 business start-ups;
- Increase the value of out of state tourism to £500million and welcome 1.9m overnight tourist stays per year
- Grow the city's rate base by 5% through increased number of residential and commercial developments
- Create 1.5 million sq. feet Grade A office space and 3,000 new hotel bed spaces
- Reduce working age economic inactivity to less than 23%
- Reduce the proportion of working population with no qualification to less than 10%
- Increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 qualification and above to more than 82% and those with Level 4 qualifications and above to 38%
- 98% of school leavers in employment, education or training.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the progress to date against the agreed actions within the Committee Plan, including the creation of

**almost 800 jobs and progress towards the commitment  
of the City Centre Regeneration Fund**

- **Agree that Officers continue to progress with the rest of the actions in the plan over the course of the financial year.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

**The 2017-18 Committee Plan was developed in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth and the importance of growing the local economy to improve the quality of life. A summary of the four priority work streams is available on modern.gov. While the Committee contributes to the delivery of all 4 work streams, Growing the Economy, City Development and Working & Learning are the focus of this Committee, therefore the Committee continues to take the lead in ensuring that there is connectivity between the need for economic growth and the purpose of this growth – to connect people to opportunity and reduce inequality.**

**3.2 Appendix 2 (available on modern.gov) provides an update against each of the main action areas in the committee plan. Members are also aware that a number of detailed reports on key programmes of work have recently been considered and will continue to feature regularly on the Committee agenda.**

**3.3 As the Committee is aware, over the last 6 months, there has been a corporate focus on working with Derry City & Strabane District Council to prepare and submit the joint bid for European Capital of Culture 2023. The Committee has received regular updates on progress with this significant corporate programme of work. The theme and development of the cultural programme will shape the ongoing work across the Council to ensure alignment to events and festivals, cultural and arts and community programming where opportunities arise.**

**3.4 The first two quarters have seen additional recruitment activity to resource the teams to deliver on the Council's ambitions for attracting investment, engaging with communities in the city centre and creating jobs and enhancing employability for local people.**

**3.5 Overview of Progress (April-September 2017)**

Particular highlights for the first six months of the plan include:

**Growing the Economy**

- 149 jobs created through the Start a Business programme
- Supported the creation of an additional 83 jobs within 25 companies based at the Innovation Factory (since Innovation Factory opening in October 2016)
- Supported Visit Belfast to secure business tourism investment to the value of £55million over the last year, with 69 major conferences attracting 25,000 delegates
- 248 people have participated on our business start support programmes and over 600 people have participated on our business growth programmes
- Secured buy-in from the enterprise sector and commenced the development of collaborative Enterprise Framework to boost enterprise and encourage under-represented groups to set up their own businesses
- Delivered two successful Twilight Markets at St George's Market, with over 120 traders at each event, attracting a total footfall of over 40,000 across both events
- Delivered a successful Belfast in China week in May 2017 and confirmed a regionally significant China Summit and visit from our Sister City, Shenyang for December 2017
- In partnership with Invest NI, delivered the successful 'Routes' conference which attracted 1,160 international delegates, including 114 airlines, 270 airports and 36 tourism authorities.
- Completed the development work on a City Proposition and Concierge Service, with the service due to be operational from the new financial year
- Refreshed Belfast's place positioning and branding and agreed roll-out plan with city partners
- Commenced the development of the MIPIM 2018 programme with an expected November launch
- Hosted site visits for potential investors and continued to liaise with indigenous developers
- Development work under way on an Events and Festivals Strategy for the city.

### City Development

- Launched a new phase of the £18m City Centre Investment Fund to support construction of Grade A Offices. There was a good response from the development market and applications are currently being evaluated
- Over 1,000 hotel bedrooms are under construction in Belfast. The majority of these will be open in 2018 and bring the city's hotel room stock to over 5,000.
- Draft masterplans for the East Bank and Inner North & West were completed. Public consultation results for East Bank and a presentation on Inner North & West masterplan will be brought to Committee in the coming months
- Work has commenced on interim use arrangements for the Belfast Telegraph; including use of the former print room as an events space, and the lease of the first floor to Digital Catapult NI to pioneer an Immersive Digital Hub
- Secured approval to procure a new city infrastructure strategy. This will highlight current provision and identify gaps, in particular additional infrastructure investment required to support the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda
- Progressed the planning and design work for Blackstaff Square
- Procurement of the outline business case (OBC) for the Belfast Story Destination Hub is progressing. This will be a central component of our City Deal.

### Working & Learning

- Over 550 Belfast residents have found work and over 2,000 residents have accessed employability support (CV building, work experience, work-based training etc.)
- Over 550 training accreditations have been supported, of which 200 are Level 2 qualifications or above
- Almost 4,000 young people have participated in enterprise skills development activities in schools across the city
- Work has commenced on delivering a large-scale programme of work experience and skills development opportunities for young people within 25 schools
- Development and delivery of Digital Skills Initiative for 36 schools and 16 youth groups across the city

- Agreed the city centre engagement strategy, which includes community capacity building, social engagement, and economic inclusion. A new Regeneration Engagement Officer was recruited in September to implement the strategy.

#### **Living Here**

- The joint submission between Belfast City Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council for European Capital of Culture 2023 is on target to have engaged with 14,000 citizens by the submission date of 27 October 2017
- Successfully delivered a range of high profile events during the summer months: - the Women's Rugby World Cup where the live coverage of the final saw a peak television audience of 2.6 million viewers; the U-9 Women's Football which resulted in almost 4,000 beds have been booked in Belfast hotels for the teams and officials; and the Ice Hockey World Championships were also successfully delivered during Summer 2017.

#### **3.6 Finance and Resource Implications**

Progress to date is in line with the previous agreed Departmental budgets.

#### **3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Programmes and actions within the Committee Plan are developed and delivered in consultation with the Council's Equality & Diversity Officers."**

A number of Members stated that the officers should be commended for their hard work which had contributed to the numerous successes outlined in the report. A Member suggested that the Council should seek to highlight the positive initiatives in the report to the media through regular briefings.

During discussion, a Member pointed out that it was important to ensure that the right jobs were being brought to the City and that the working poor figures were not being perpetuated.

The Chief Executive highlighted to the Members the importance of a City Deal for Belfast.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Progress Infographics**

The Committee considered the undernoted report with accompanying infographic style materials:

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

**1.1 The Belfast Agenda sets a challenging ambition for the city to be home to an additional 66,000 new residents and an economy that supports 46,000 more jobs by 2035. Growing the economy and driving inclusive growth to ensure that all people benefit from economic success is at the core of this ambition.**

**1.2 To deliver on this, the Council has agreed to a significant step change in the provision of Council support to accelerate new businesses to start up and support existing businesses to grow and export as well as driving the delivery of the Employability & Skills Framework. This is central to ensuring that all communities benefit from economic growth as well as positioning Belfast to attract international investment from developers, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and institutional investment.**

**1.3 Delivering on these ambitions will involve a range of interventions. This can mean that it is difficult to see, at a glance, how these activities are contributing to the overall Belfast Agenda targets. There has been increasing emphasis on producing accessible and user-friendly infographic style materials to assist in communicating information about Council programmes and services. A detailed update on progress delivering the Committee Plan 2017-18 is a separate item on the agenda. However, this paper presents an overview of the key achievements to date relating to the Council's efforts to deliver on the Belfast Agenda ambitions to Grow the Belfast Economy, illustrated by the use of infographics.**

### **1.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the overview of the Council's performance and contribution to delivering against Belfast Agenda ambitions to grow the Belfast economy, focusing on the current support for Business Start-up and Growth as well as Employability and Skills.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1** The Committee receives regular updates on the performance and contribution of the Council to delivering the City targets outlined in the Belfast Agenda. This information is included in various reports presented to Committee; including the six month progress report on the Committee Plan 2017-18 which is included as a separate item on the Committee agenda.
- 3.2** Given the volume of activity and breadth of programmes relating to the key priority to 'Grow the Belfast Economy', Members have previously advised that infographic style materials would provide an easily accessible, consistent and concise visual overview of the Council's progress against key performance targets. These can also provide Members with a source of assurance that Council investment is continuing to make an impact. For this Committee, some of the key targets that Members want to support include the number of jobs created and the number of jobs supported as well as investment levered.
- 3.2** As a starting point, officers have begun the process of creating infographics for the Business Start-up and Growth as well as some of the Employability and Skills metrics. Infographics outlining progress for the first six months of the financial year 2017-18 for Council support for the Start Up and Growth areas are available on modern.gov. This includes key performance information related to Council activity in terms of:
- Number of jobs created
  - Number of new businesses created
  - Number of programme participants
  - Number of referrals to other agencies
  - Summary information on the programmes delivered by the Council.
- 3.4** While this information has traditionally been gathered and reported to the Committee and to funders on an annual or six-monthly basis, enhanced focus on the jobs and skills measurements mean that for these targets, in particular, it may be more appropriate to present the information in this format on a more regular basis (subject to data availability).
- 3.5** In addition to the information set out above, details are also gathered on additional benefits and outcomes achieved by

participants engaging in Council-supported activity. These include innovation / new product development and enhanced service standards. All of these support mechanisms are intended to support business competitiveness and productivity, and, in turn, create jobs and increase turnover.

3.6 The Committee will also note that work is under way to update the Belfast Facts & Figures booklet. This has been well received by internal and external audiences as an easily accessible information source. The document will be revised in time for MIPIM 2018.

3.7 These materials will continue to evolve and develop as programmes go live and they will provide a key reference point to support existing material used by our city partners when promoting Belfast as a place to do business, visit, study or invest in. This information will be made available on the Members' Portal and regular updates on progress will be brought back to this Committee.

3.8 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The progress reports will be produced internally, therefore requiring officer time, and within existing departmental budgets.

3.9 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no equality or good relations implications. Representation by under-represented groups is one of the key performance indicators of the service."

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson



# City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Tuesday, 21st November, 2017

## SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillors Craig, Heading, Hussey,  
Garrett and Lyons.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Dudgeon, Dorrian, Hargey, Kyle, Magee, McAteer and O'Hara.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Potential Impact on the Economy of the UK Leaving the EU

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th June 2017, it had agreed to hold a Special meeting to enable an informed and focused discussion on the potential economic impact of Brexit to Belfast. The Chairperson advised the Members that, given the significance and complexity of the issue, the Committee had requested to hear from different perspectives on the potential impacts and opportunities to help ensure Belfast's resilience and the delivery of the Council's ambitions for inclusive growth.

The Director of Development provided the Members with the context for the meeting and an update on the Council's work to date, particularly in relation to two of the priorities within the Belfast Agenda, namely, growing the economy and working and learning. He highlighted to the Committee the importance of remaining informed and engaged as the Brexit negotiations continued, to ensure that the Council's strategies were relevant and that the Members were informed to ensure that the Council continued to deliver for the City's future economic growth and success.

He advised the Committee that Belfast had attracted approximately 20,000 inward investment jobs in the past decade and that Foreign Direct Investment was continuing

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since Brexit had been announced. He explained, however, that it had been highlighted as a key risk to the region by WAVTEQ, with 70% estimated to be at risk.

The Chief Executive outlined that inclusive growth was at the heart of the City's ambitions for the future and that the Belfast Agenda was key in attaining those targets. She stated that, while it was important to recognise that there would be challenges and opportunities, the Council needed to show leadership. She highlighted that the Belfast Region needed to ensure that it worked to retain more of its potential talent and that it sought to attract back experienced talent with local roots to contribute to the City's growing economy.

In relation to the Belfast Region City Deal, she advised the Members that Belfast City Council was working with the surrounding councils to develop a cohesive Programme of Investment across infrastructure, innovation and skills. She explained that a City Deal would be an economic game-changer, with the potential to bring £1million of investment, and would form a key part of the region developing economic resilience towards current and future challenges and opportunities, including Brexit.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Dr K. Hayward, Queen's University Belfast, Dr. S. Nolan, Trademark, Dr. E. Magennis, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) and Professor N. Gibson, EY's Chief Economist in Ireland, were in attendance to present to the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Chairperson advised the Members that apologies had been received from Mr. P. Mac Flynn, Nevin Economic Research Institute, who had been invited to attend the meeting but was unable to, due to a conflicting appointment. The Members noted that he had submitted a research paper for the Committee's information, entitled "Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the E.U. Customs Union", and copies were provided to the Members. Mr. Mac Flynn had also offered to attend a future meeting.

**Dr. Hayward, Queen's University Belfast**

Dr. Hayward provided the Members with an overview of the Brexit process. She explained that Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon permitted any European Union (EU) Member State the right to leave the E.U., and allowed the country two years to negotiate an exit deal. She explained that 29th March, 2019, was the withdrawal date for the UK leaving the E.U. but that we would not necessarily know at that time the detail of, for example, future trading relationships with other countries.

In response to a Member's question, Dr. Hayward outlined that she estimated that the transition period would likely take at least another two years.

She described the issue of the movement of people in relation to living and working outside of Northern Ireland after Brexit, outlining both those changes which were known, such as the continued free movement of British and Irish citizens within the Common Travel Area, and those which were still to be resolved, such as the protections and rights for cross-border workers.

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In response to a Member's question regarding a potential increase in 'point of contact controls', Dr. Hayward outlined that the U.K. already used these checks for non-E.U. students studying in the U.K., such as those from the U.S.A., and that it was possible that those controls could therefore be implemented for European students post-Brexit.

With the recent surge in applications for Irish Passports, a Member asked whether those citizens with Irish passports would have different rights than those with British passports. Dr. Hayward explained that it was difficult to answer at this stage, but that she could not see how Irish citizens living in Northern Ireland could enjoy rights as European citizens, when Northern Ireland was no longer part of the E.U.

The Chairperson thanked Dr. Hayward for her presentation and she retired from the meeting.

**Dr. Nolan, Trademark**

Dr. Nolan outlined that he had worked for TradeMark for the past ten years, which provided specialist cooperative development and support. In preparation for Brexit, he explained the importance of having a strong local economy, of considering alternative strategies to economic development and of promoting community wealth through social enterprises and cooperatives.

He explained that cooperatives could provide a "lock-in of wealth" for local areas, communities and people. He outlined to the Members that the City should seek to promote and support activities which sought to provide a plurality of ways of creating wealth and economic activity, including anchor institutions, community share offers, loanstock, community energy schemes, cooperative housing and worker buy-outs.

He provided the Committee with two examples of successful, local cooperatives, namely, the Belfast Cleaning Society and Boundary Brewery.

In response to a Member's question regarding the strength of cooperatives elsewhere in Europe, he cited that cooperatives produced 30% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Bologna, Italy.

Dr. Nolan stated that he felt that, while the Belfast Agenda included positive language around inclusive growth, it focused too much on the financial services industry, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and on commercial property speculation. In response, the Chief Executive highlighted to the Committee that the Belfast Agenda had a significantly broader focus than those industries, but that it was important to remember that 33,000 people worked in the financial services industry in Northern Ireland and that those jobs needed to be protected. She explained that the strategy set out ambitions for the City to grow its rate base so that it could be recycled in communities in order to create more social enterprises and additional skills programmes and that social enterprises including cooperatives were also part of the wider economic sustainability plan.

The Chairperson thanked Dr. Nolan for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

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**Dr. Magennis, Ulster University Economic Policy Forum**

Dr. Magennis outlined to the Committee the economic forecasts for Belfast, and for the city region, and how Brexit might affect them.

He explained that, since 2008, there had been a steady recovery of the City's economy which was delivered, largely, by good performance of inward investment. Belfast had been key to the knowledge economy across NI, including the financial services and high end manufacturing sectors, through trade with the rest of the UK and beyond. He added that there had also been notable success with a number of new business start-ups in the City and that the challenge for many of them was how to scale-up their business and to begin exporting.

He advised the Members of the employment outlook in light of Brexit and pointed out that the great deal of uncertainty was reflected in the different scenarios.

In relation to opportunities post-Brexit, he highlighted to the Members that some companies, particularly in the financial services sector, might make strategic decisions to base offices in Belfast, given its location in the UK and its proximity to Dublin, as part of the E.U.

The Chairperson thanked Dr. Magennis for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

**Professor Gibson, EY Chief Economist in Ireland**

The Chairperson congratulated Professor Gibson on his new role as EY Chief Economist in Ireland. Prof. Gibson explained that he was presenting to the Committee in a dual role, as he was also the Visiting Professor of Economic Policy at Ulster University.

Prof. Gibson advised the Members that there were many empirical estimates of the possible economic impacts from Brexit and that they varied widely. He began by providing the Committee with an overview of what firms were doing in preparation for Brexit. He highlighted the potential issues which they would face, including the impact on labour availability, multi-jurisdictional tax issues, supply chain friction, delays at the border, increased customs requirements, trade modelling, tariff implications and non-tariff barriers, such as delays, paperwork and regulation matters.

However, he advised the Committee that Belfast could benefit in certain sectors, such as financial and professional services, both due to its location and because of the much higher costs associated with London and Dublin, while providing access to the U.K. and European markets. He also pointed out that Belfast should learn from Dublin's mistakes, where the City had grown so fast that the housing market and public services could not keep up.

During discussion, he highlighted to the Members that the Belfast Agenda should remain the key focus for the Council and that Brexit should do little to alter the Council's course of action. He also emphasised that a City Deal should be approached both from

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an internal angle, to improve the city, and externally, to make it globally competitive. The Members were also advised that transport links to the city, including the new Transport Hub, would be vital to the City in ensuring delegates could arrive at a meeting in the City centre in the shortest possible timeframe.

In response to a Member's question as to whether Newry could become a threat to Belfast, given its closer proximity to Dublin, Prof. Gibson stated that there was room for growth for both and reinforced the fact that young professionals wanted to live and work in cities, given the greater choices of entertainment, employment and transport links.

In response to further questions from Members, regarding Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) which would face new difficulties trying to export or import produce, he stated that many SMEs were nervous about additional administration and bureaucracy mainly due to the uncertainty around what Brexit would mean for them. He highlighted that the Council had a role to play in that regard, in terms of providing key information, advice and reassurance to firms. The Director of Development added that Invest NI had a website, [www.NIBusinessInfo.co.uk](http://www.NIBusinessInfo.co.uk), which provided advice and guidance to businesses on start-ups and exporting, amongst other key information. He also added that the Council was working with Belfast Partners in London and Invest NI on various programmes involving small business start-ups in the creative industries, cyber security and financial services sectors.

In his concluding statement, Prof. Gibson emphasised that he felt it was crucial that progress be made on the migration issue, given that, in his view, it was the biggest reason which had led to the Brexit referendum result. He stated that it was important that Belfast remained a globally welcoming city for those people who it will have to try and attract from other locations.

The Chairperson thanked Dr. Hayward, Dr. Nolan, Dr. Magennis and Prof. Gibson for sharing their comments and expertise with the Committee and they retired from the meeting.

**Correspondence re: Notice of Motion on Special Designated Status**

The Committee noted the acknowledgement responses which had been received from the Prime Minister's Office, the Office of the Taoiseach and the Northern Ireland Office.

Chairperson

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## Licensing Committee

Thursday, 9th November, 2017

### MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Carson (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); and Councillors Bell, Campbell, Clarke, Collins, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, McConville, McReynolds and Milne.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Alderman Spence) and Councillors Boyle and Bunting.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 18th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

#### **Licences issued under Delegated Authority**

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

#### **Application for the Variation of an Indoor Entertainments Licence - The Bear and The Doll, 2-14 Little Donegall Street**

The Committee was informed that an application had been received from Gracemount Enterprises Limited for the variation of a Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of The Bear and The Doll, based upon the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

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Thursday, 9th November, 2017**

The Building Control Manager explained that entertainment, in the form of a DJ or live band, was provided currently from Monday to Friday till 1.00 a.m. the following morning, on a Saturday till 3.00 a.m. the following morning and on a Sunday till midnight. The company was now seeking to extend the hours of operation from Monday to Friday till 3.00 a.m. and on a Sunday till 1.00 a.m. to enable it to compete on an equal commercial footing with other venues in the area.

He reported 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 offered no objection. In such instances, 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, it was being presented to the Committee for consideration.

He confirmed that, during the past year, officers of the Building Control Service had visited the premises on three occasions whilst entertainment had been taking place and on a number of other occasions as part of the current application process. Those had revealed that all of the operational and management procedures were being implemented. In addition, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had indicated that, in the past year, it had received no complaints regarding noise from the premises and that it had no concerns in relation to this application.

The Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for The Bear and The Doll, 2-14 Little Donegall Street, thereby allowing entertainment to take place till 3.00 a.m. from Monday to Saturday and till 1.00 a.m. on a Sunday.

**Application for Extended Hours – Lower Crescent Park**

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that the City and Neighbourhoods Services Department held a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for Lower Crescent Park, which it transferred to any organiser seeking to hold an event. Under the terms of the licence, entertainment was permitted to take place from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m., with special conditions being attached in relation to occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 17th May, it had agreed to extend the standard hours on the Entertainments Licence to enable entertainment to take place within the park until midnight on the nights of 30th June and 1st July, as part of the inaugural Focal Festival, which celebrated and promoted local foods and drinks. The organisers were now planning to hold a Christmas festival on the nights of Thursday, 21st, Friday, 22nd and Saturday, 23rd December and had applied to operate till 1.00 a.m. on each occasion. The People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 10th October, had granted approval for the use of the park.

He reminded the Committee further that it was a standard condition of an Outdoor Entertainments Licence that all requests to operate beyond the permitted hour of 11.00 p.m. should be placed before the Committee and that it had, recently, approved requests for similar events, such as the Belfast Beer Festival and Oktoberfest in Custom House Square and the Belfast City Blues Festival in Writers' Square.



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He explained that, since the applicant was seeking to extend the hours permitted under an existing licence condition, rather than vary the Entertainments Licence itself, there had been no requirement for the application to be advertised. Whilst the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objection to the application, they would, in line with events of this nature, be invited to attend meetings in which public safety, traffic management, transport and wider operational issues were being discussed. He advised the Members that one noise complaint had been received during the previous event, which had not warranted formal action, and that the Council's Environmental Protection Unit would be assessing a noise report for the forthcoming festival to ensure that disturbance would be kept to a minimum.

The Building Control Manager added that the organisers had held discussions with officers from the Building Control Service and the Parks Service to establish an appropriate occupancy level for the venue and around the arrangements to be put in place to manage the event safely. In addition, the organisers would be required to provide surrounding commercial, offices and licensed premises with details of the festival.

The Committee agreed that the standard hours on the Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Lower Crescent Park be extended to enable entertainment to be held till 1.00 a.m. on the nights of Thursday, 21st, Friday, 22nd and Saturday, 23rd December, as part of the Christmas Focal Festival, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers.

**Applications for the Renewal of Indoor Entertainments Licences  
with Previous Convictions – Glenowen Inn/Voodoo**

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

Accordingly, he drew its attention to applications which had been received for the renewal of Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of the Glenowen Inn, 108 Glen Road and Voodoo, 9-11 Fountain Street.

He reported that the licensee of the Glenowen Inn had, on 24th May, 2016, been fined £600 and ordered to pay £66 in costs, as a consequence of an inspection by officers whilst entertainment had been taking place, which had found that a rear exit had been blocked by combustible materials, the alleyway leading from that exit had been partially obstructed by a vehicle, several exit signs had not been illuminated and the premises' log book had not been completed.

In terms of Voodoo, the licensee had, on 4th September 2012, been fined £270 and instructed to pay costs of £69, following an inspection by officers whilst entertainment had been taking place, which had revealed that a fire exit had been locked, a means of escape had been obstructed and the required checks had not been completed before entertainment had commenced.

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He pointed out that the Committee had, in subsequent years, agreed to renew the Entertainments Licences and that inspections which had been undertaken over the past year, either whilst entertainment had been taking place or as part of the current application process, had indicated that all management procedures were being implemented effectively. Finally, no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

The Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of the Glenowen Inn, 108 Glen Road and Voodoo, 9-11 Fountain Street.

**Non-Delegated Matters**

**Schedule of Meetings for 2018**

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the Licensing Committee during 2018 and agreed that it should continue to meet at 5.00 p.m.:

Wednesday, 17th January;  
Wednesday, 14th February;  
Wednesday, 21st March;  
Wednesday, 18th April;  
Wednesday, 16th May;  
Wednesday, 20th June;  
No meeting in July (Council in recess)  
Wednesday, 15th August;  
Wednesday, 19th September;  
Wednesday, 17th October;  
Wednesday, 14th November; and  
Wednesday, 12th December.

Chairperson

## Planning Committee

Tuesday, 14th November, 2017

### MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);  
Alderman McGimpsey;  
Councillors Armitage, Dorrian, Garrett,  
Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Magee,  
McAteer, McDonough-Brown and Mullan.
- In attendance: Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place;  
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Bunting and Carson.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 17th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Regarding item 9.a) 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 to the proposal, and had made a deputation at the last meeting in relation to the application.

### **Committee Site Visits**

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

Pursuant to its decision of 17th October, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 2nd November in respect of planning application LA04/2015/0061/F - Fifty-five bed nursing home on lands to rear of 21 Finaghy Park Central.

### **Schedule of Meetings 2018**

The Committee agreed to meet at 5.00 p.m. on the following dates during 2018:

- Tuesday, 16th and Thursday, 18th January;
- Tuesday, 13th and Thursday, 15th February;
- Tuesday, 13th and Thursday, 15th March;

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- Tuesday, 17th and Thursday, 19th April;
- Tuesday, 15th and Thursday, 17th May;
- Tuesday, 12th and Thursday, 14th June;
- No meetings scheduled in July;
- Tuesday, 14th and Thursday, 16th August;
- Tuesday, 11th and Thursday, 13th September;
- Tuesday, 16th and Thursday, 18th October;
- Tuesday, 13th and Thursday, 15th November; and
- Tuesday, 11th and Thursday, 13th December.

**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 October and 6th November, 2017.

**Departmental Performance Update**

The Director tabled a 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 provided a breakdown of the monthly performance up to 31st October, 2017 as follows:

*Planning Applications*

- 212 applications had been validated in October, 2017;
- 242 applications had been validated in September, 2017; and

*Planning Decisions*

- 304 decisions had been issued in October, 2017;
- 240 decisions had been issued in September, 2017;
- 89% approval rate;
- 96% decisions had been issued under delegated authority; and

*No. of applications in system by length of time*

- 913 live applications were in the system at end of October, 2017;
- 28% of applications were in the system for more than 6 months; and

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- 8 legacy applications were outstanding.

*Performance against statutory targets (un-validated management information)*

- The statutory target for processing major development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was within an average of 30 weeks. In October, the average processing time to decide major applications was 31.6 weeks, with 50% of applications on target. Performance however was skewed by a small number of applications.
- The statutory target for processing local development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was an average of 15 weeks. In October, 2017, the average processing time to decide local applications was 15 weeks, with 51% of decisions issued on target;
- The statutory target was that 70% of all enforcement cases are progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. In October, 2017, 56% of enforcement cases had been concluded on target. This drop in performance could be contributed to a recent focus on concluding longstanding enforcement cases; and
- On average, the execution of Section 76 agreements added an extra 24 weeks to the processing times, however, a more detailed update would be submitted to the Committee in December.

The Director highlighted that there had been a significant increase in the numbers of decisions which had been issued in the last month and reiterated that robust measurement and management of the performance, as outlined last month, would continue.

He advised that statutory consultee response timescales would also be submitted to the next Committee meeting.

Noted

(Councillor Mullan entered the meeting at this point.)

(Alderman McGimpsey returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**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:

- Annalee Court;
- Hopewell Crescent; and
- Mountpottinger Road.

**Miscellaneous Items**

**Proposed Listed Buildings**

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

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

It was reported that the second survey of all of Northern Ireland's building stock was currently underway, to update and improve on the first list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest which began in 1974 and was due to be completed in 2016.

After discussion, the Committee agreed with the Agency's proposals to list the following buildings:

- 1 Sans Souci Lane, Belfast, BT9 5QY;
- 3 Sans Souci Lane, Belfast, BT9 5QY;
- NI Regional War Room, Belfast, BT9 6RB;
- The Craggs, 29 Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5NU;
- 12 St. Johns Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3JE;
- 40 St. Johns Park, Belfast, BT7 3JF;
- 4 Knockbreda Park, Belfast, BT6 0HB;
- 16 Knockbreda Park, Belfast, BT6 0HB;
- 46 Hampton Park, Belfast, BT7 3JP; and
- 28 Florenceville Drive, Belfast, BT7 3GY.

**Belfast Local Development Plan Timetable Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 To update the Members on progress with the new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) and to review the timetable for the adoption of the LDP.**
- 1.2 The City Council published its agreed timetable for the preparation and adoption of the new LDP in June 2016 following consultation with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC). A summary of this initial timetable is attached at Appendix 1. The Council has completed the Preferred Options Paper (POP)**

stage and work is currently ongoing in preparing the Draft Plan Strategy.

- 1.3 In response to the early engagement, additional detailed studies to support the required evidence base for the new LDP were approved and are nearing completion. The requirement to carry out these additional complex pieces of work has impacted on the work programme and there has been some slippage in the originally approved timetable. In addition, we are advised by the Planning Appeals Commission that the Independent Examination of the LDP, at both formal stages, could take approximately one year and this has further implications for the current approved LDP timetable.
- 1.4 It has been agreed with DfI that the LDP timetable will be kept under review and this report proposes to formally revise and update the timetable to reflect progress and projected timeframes. As part of the review the consultation timeframes outlined in the approved Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) have been reassessed in relation to the re-consultation aspects of the LDP process. This report also seeks approval to make minor revisions to the SCI for submission to the DfI for approval in advance of formal amendment to the published document.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- notes the updates set out in the report;
  - agrees the revisions to the LDP timetable as set out in 3.7 and Appendix 2; and
  - agrees the amendments to the SCI consultation periods as set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.11.

## **3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1 The approved LDP Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Timetable were published in June 2016 and these set out the consultation arrangements and timeframes associated with the key stages in the LDP process. The test of soundness for the LDP includes consideration of adherence to the SCI and agreed timetable.
- 3.2 The currently approved timetable (Appendix 1) covers the full plan-making cycle. It was agreed with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in accordance with planning legislation on the basis that it would be kept under review. There are regulatory provisions to allow the Council to revise both the

timetable and the SCI in response to changes in the anticipated timeline for LDP preparation.

- 3.3** Delays were encountered in the preparation and publication of the Preferred Options Paper (POP), which was published several months later than the approved timetable. The preparatory work for the Draft Plan Strategy has required the commissioning of additional detailed studies, not anticipated at the outset of the process, to support the evidence base. These include an Urban Capacity Study, Housing Market Needs Assessment, Retail and Leisure Study and Open Spaces Strategy.
- 3.4** The detailed studies are essential in seeking to ensure that the Draft Plan Strategy meets the soundness tests and are now nearing completion. This evidence will also inform the later Local Policies Plan and, therefore, time spent now should help frontload the later stage of the plan development.
- 3.5** In addition to some slippage on the LDP timetable to date, we have also been advised by the Planning Appeals Commission that the Independent Examination of the LDP, at both the Draft Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan stages, could take approximately one year, which is an increase from the 9 months originally estimated by Dfl. As the Independent Examination stages are outside the control of the Council, it is considered expedient to reflect the additional time allowances in the revised timetable.
- 3.6** The above matters have implications for the approved LDP timetable and it is considered necessary to revise the timetable at this time, in advance of submitting the Draft Plan Strategy for Independent Examination.
- 3.7** The current timetable states that the Draft Plan Strategy will be available for public consultation in the 'second half of 2017'. Intensive preparatory work is ongoing, including engagement with key stakeholders, and it is now anticipated that formal consultation will start in March/April 2018. This will require members to consider and approve the formal draft Plan Strategy documents in the first quarter of 2018. In addition, as much of the upcoming LDP process lies outside the Council's control, it should be recognised that there remains a significant degree of uncertainty for this future timetable necessitating ongoing review, in consultation with Dfl, at each stage of the process.
- 3.8** The revised timetable is attached at Appendix 2 of this report. It is recommended that the Committee endorses the revised



timetable for submission to DfI for formal agreement. The timetable will be kept under review during the LDP process and any further changes will be brought to the Committee for consideration.

- 3.9 The delay in publishing the Draft Plan Strategy and the potential longer period for Independent Examination will require a formal modification of the timetable and there is the parallel opportunity to introduce interrelated changes to the SCI. As part of the timetable review and ongoing discussions, the periods for consultation within the SCI were also reassessed. The SCI provides for a series of 12-week consultation periods where public representation and counter-representation to the draft LDP documents are possible.
- 3.10 These Council timescales are beyond the statutory 8-week periods set out in the LDP Regulations. Following the reassessment, it is considered that there is potential to reduce the overall timeframe for the LDP process by aligning some of the consultation periods with the statutory requirements. It is, therefore, suggested that a statutory 8-week period is applied to each of the more narrowly focussed counter-representation stages.
- 3.11 This revision to the SCI would leave the opportunity to engage in the primary consultation unaltered at 12-weeks, in the interests of encouraging public participation. During this initial consultation the draft plan documents will be published 4 weeks in advance of the statutory 8-week period to allow for additional engagement. Should this be agreed by members, the SCI (and any relevant text in the timetable) will be amended accordingly and submitted to the DfI for agreement, prior to its publication.

#### Finance and Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

#### Asset and Other Implications

None noted.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

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Tuesday, 14th November, 2017**

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to:

- the revisions to the Local Development timetable as set out in 3.7 and the appendix 2 of the report (copy available [here](#)); and
- the amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement consultation periods as set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.11 of the report.

**Participation on Impact Advisory Group Knowledge Exchange Visit**

The Committee noted that the Principal Planning Officer, Dermot O’Kane, had been invited to join a research delegation to Curitiba, Brazil by Queens University Belfast and Belfast Healthy Cities as part of the Healthy Urban Living and Ageing in Place Project, and that the costs associated with the visit would be met by Queen’s University Belfast.

**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 - LA04/2015/0061/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 Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received from Mr. D. Mullholland, an objector, citing exceptional circumstances and a new request had also been received from Mr. B. Warrington. The Committee agreed not to receive either of the deputations as it did not consider the circumstances to be exceptional.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th October, given the issues which had been raised regarding car parking, scale, massing and overdevelopment of the site, 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 Committee received representation from Councillor Nicholl who outlined a range of objections to the case officer’s recommendation for approval. She suggested that the proposal had significant opposition from local residents which included difficulty in exiting the street in rush hour due to traffic and car queues, was out of character with the area and would overshadow the rest of the street. She inferred that the proposal would increase traffic by over 40 percent and suggested that the proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3, as it would be incompatible with access, movement and parking. She advised that consideration should be also given to the impact the proposal

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might have on car parking and traffic of the surrounding streets. She explained that access was already difficult for large vehicles, such as bin lorries, and the site was not ideal for heavier traffic. She suggested that the proposal would be ten times the size of any other building in the street, it would comprise 10 percent of the total land in the street but would house over thirty percent of the total number of residents in the street.

She stated that the proposal was contrary to PPS 11 – planning waste management as it would increase the risk of flooding. She advised that residents were concerned that the development would introduce a security risk for children playing, a loss of privacy, impact on the Townscape character and reduce property values, for those reasons, she suggested that the Committee should refuse the application.

The case officer provided an overview of the report. During points of clarification, the case officer confirmed that Transport NI had been satisfied with the application and confirmed that adequate access had been proposed.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor McDonough-Brown and  
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

That the Committee, agrees to refuse the application on the grounds that it does not meet Policy AMP 2 - Access to Public Roads, as outlined in Planning Policy Statement 3: Access, Movement and Parking, in that the proposal would prejudice road safety and significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic, together with the nature and scale of the development which would negatively impact the residents.

On a vote by show of hands 6 Members voted for the proposal and 5 against and it was declared carried.

**LA04/2017/2209/F - Temporary change of use of former Belfast Telegraph printing hall to event space at 122-144 Royal Avenue**

(Councillor McDonough-Brown had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

The case officer advised that planning permission was sought for a temporary change of use of a former print hall to an event space for a two-year period. During the course of consultation, this description had been changed to one year to ensure compatibility with potential future developments.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an interest in the application.

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.

**Planning Committee,  
Tuesday, 14th November, 2017**

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

**LA04/2017/2112/F - Variation of condition 7 (LA04/2016/1252/F) which refers to legislative procedures for the loading bay on site bounded by Little York Street Great George's Street and Nelson Street**

The case officer advised that the initial condition had required that the appropriate legislative procedures for the approved loading bay on Nelson Street were successfully completed prior to the commencement of the development on site. The applicant had requested that the condition was amended to allow work to commence prior to these legislative procedures being completed, and the procedures had now been completed prior to the occupation of the building. He advised that Department for Infrastructure - Roads Unit, had no objections to the proposal and had requested that the wording of the condition be amended as follows:

- ***The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied or otherwise become operational until the appropriate legislative procedures for the loading bay on Nelson Street have been successfully completed.***

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

Chairperson

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

Monday, 6th November, 2017

### MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); and  
Councillors Attwood, Graham, Johnston,  
Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;  
Ms. C. Toolan, Managing Director, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd;  
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

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

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 1st August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th September.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **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.**

#### **Shareholders' Performance Report – Quarter 2**

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance during July, August and September 2017.

The Business Support Director provided the Committee with an overview of the operating income, operating expenses and the sales mix.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,  
Monday, 6th November, 2017**

The Members were advised that, while Quarter 2 had been quieter than the preceding quarter, 79% of room hire sales had been secured throughout Quarters 1 and 2, the economic impact for Quarter 2 had been £12.4million, and that they expected to be ahead of their sales target for the year 2017/2018.

In response to a Member's question regarding how the economic impact was calculated, the Managing Director outlined that Deloitte and Oxford University had established a recognised calculation to estimate the economic impact of both national and international conferences and that this was an industry standard. She explained however, that the calculation was a number of years old and that a new one was being created, where, she estimated, the economic impact per delegate would likely increase.

The Managing Director reported that a Liquor Licence for Off Sales had been granted to the Belfast Waterfront on 13th October, 2017, which meant that the needs of events such as the BBC Good Food Show could now be fully met and would be a great asset to the company.

She provided the Members with an overview of ongoing engagement with the Trade Unions in relation to a pay award.

In relation to the creation of apprenticeships within BWUH Ltd., she explained that it needed to have, for example, a trained electrician on-site who could provide training to an apprentice, and that this was a challenge for the company.

She advised the Members that a European company had recently pulled out of negotiations to hold a conference in the Belfast Waterfront in 2020, stating that the decision had been attributed to the uncertainty in relation to Brexit.

During discussion, she explained that conferences were key to BWUH Ltd. and that the recent declaration by Lonely Planet that "Belfast and the Causeway Coast" was the best region to visit in 2018 was certainly beneficial and would hopefully put Belfast on the map. She outlined that transportation, particularly direct flights, was one of a number of key considerations for most conference organisers.

The Director of Development also pointed out that the Business Ambassador Programme, led by Visit Belfast, and the city's subvention fund, led by the Council and Tourism NI, were both very successful in attracting conferences to the city.

The Committee noted the update which was provided.

**Schedule of Meetings 2018**

The Committee noted that it had previously agreed to meet on the following dates in 2018:

- 22nd January;
- 19th February; and
- 21st May (AGM).

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,  
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The Committee agreed that it would also meet on the following dates in 2018, with all meetings commencing at 5.15pm:

- 13th August; and
- 12th November.

Chairperson

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