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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Thursday, 1st February, 2018 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 3rd January, 2018 (Pages 1 - 8)

- a) Amendment to Standing Order 30

To affirm the Council's decision of 3rd January to pass a Resolution amending Standing Order 30 to read as follows: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any person or section of society, including any such expression that shows contempt in relation to their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability."

5. Requests to Address the Council

(To consider requests from a representative of the Belfast Islamic Community and of the Belfast Jewish Community to address the Council in relation to the motion on Inter-Faith being proposed by Councillor Armitage.)

6. Official Announcements

7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5th and 19th January, 2018 (Pages 9 - 64)

- a) City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update - Proposed Recasting to Support the City's Growing Tourism Infrastructure (Pages 65 - 72)

In light of the legal opinion received, to adopt the minute of the meeting of 20th October, 2017, under the heading "City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City's Growing Tourism Infrastructure", which was called in.

8. People and Communities Committee of 9th January, 2018 (Pages 73 - 96)

9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th and 24th January, 2018 (Pages 97 - 136)

10. Licensing Committee of 17th January, 2018 (Pages 137 - 142)

11. Planning Committee of 16th January, 2018 (Pages 143 - 154)

12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited Shareholders' Committee of 22nd January, 2018 (Pages 155 - 158)

13. Notices of Motion

a) Dementia Friendly City

Proposed by the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard),
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland),

“This Council supports making Belfast a Dementia Friendly City and, by doing so, would envisage each business and transport provider signing up to having a Dementia Champion and to take part in Dementia awareness training.”

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

b) Room of Reflection in City Hall

Proposed by Councillor Boyle,
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

"This Council believes that Belfast should be a place where everyone feels welcome and safe, where they are treated fairly and with respect in a shared City that values diversity and encourages civic participation.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to provide in the City Hall a quiet room/room of reflection which can be used by persons of all faiths and none to facilitate those citizens of Belfast and further afield who wish to have a private time out of the hustle and bustle of City life.”

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

c) Inter-Faith

Proposed by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

“This Council recognises the long history of all faiths in Belfast. The Council also appreciates the positive investment that each faith has placed in the City and celebrates the diverse cultural heritage that has been produced by all faiths and acknowledges the role of social justice that has enhanced Belfast.

As a City, we are keen to recognise the equality of all faiths, as well as those who describe themselves as atheists or agnostic.

It saddens this Council to see recent anti-religious actions, especially against the Jewish Faith and the Islamic Faith, and so we would like to honour the work of all faiths by inviting them to attend a civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor.”

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

d) Audio Recording of Council Working Groups

Proposed by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

"This Council recognises the need for openness, transparency and accountability in how it transacts its business. In order for this to happen, the Council agrees to audio record all meetings of Council Working Groups not presently included in the policy, namely:

- Audit and Risk Panel
- Budget and Transformation Panel
- Party Leaders' Forum
- North Foreshore Members' Steering Group
- Reference Group on Older People
- Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group
- Shared City Partnership and
- Historic Working Group."

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

e) Problem Parking

Proposed by Councillor Dorrian,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

"This Council recognises the concerns of many communities across Belfast in respect to 'problem parking' in their neighbourhoods, primarily during day time work hours, and recognises the need for further substantive engagement to address and resolve this issue.

To date, strategies and campaigns have had minimal impact in solving these communities' difficulties.

In mind of ambitious investment and expansion plans contained in the Belfast Agenda, the Council calls for immediate, co-ordinated action to improve parking measures and notes the lack of enforcement action to date with respect to bus and cycle lanes.

This motion also reaffirms the Council's commitment to full implementation of its car parking strategy, delivering proper parking infrastructure and taking appropriate action against those who show daily disregard for local communities."

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

f) Support for People with Anaphylaxis

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

"This Council commits to seeking ways to better support people with anaphylaxis living within and visiting the City, including by considering ways to help raise awareness of the condition and reviewing support and facilities available for them in Council amenities."

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

g) Provision of Water Refill Points

Proposed by Councillor Milne,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

“This Council notes that many cities in the UK and Ireland are taking action against plastic waste by implementing free water refill points. Notably, Bristol has been implementing a very successful refill scheme since 2015, and London has recently pledged to increase the availability of water refill points to help limit the amount of recyclable waste sent to landfill.

Not only will increasing the provision of free water refill points help reduce plastic waste, but increased access to water can contribute towards people living a healthier lifestyle.

The Council, therefore, agrees to assess the feasibility of implementing a bottle refill initiative. Additionally, it will write to the Belfast Chamber of Commerce seeking to determine whether local shops and businesses can work together to provide access to public drinking water. This could potentially increase footfall within local businesses and even further improve the public relations impact of our business community.”

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

h) Leisure Transformation Programme

Proposed by Councillor Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Milne,

“This Council notes with deep concern news that potential job losses are being considered across leisure services in 2018. In line with the trades union movement, the Council is opposed to any job losses as part of the leisure transformation programme, whether through voluntary or involuntary redundancy.

“Furthermore, the Council believes that it is vital that staff are protected and allowed to retain their terms and conditions throughout the leisure transformation programme. To this end, the Council is deeply concerned that, in regards to Andersonstown Leisure Centre, management are effectively preventing staff from returning to their workplace under their former terms and conditions. The Council considers it crucial that staff should be afforded the right to return to Andersonstown Leisure Centre after the redevelopment and under their current employment contracts, with no changes to their terms and conditions, if they so wish to.”

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally on the page.

Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018
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); Aldermen Convery, Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, 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 Aldermen Browne and R. Patterson and Councillors Craig, McAteer and McCusker.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

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

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

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended her condolences to Councillor Howard on the death of her mother, Violet.

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed that the Lord Mayor forward to the family of the late Sir William Hastings and of the late Dr. Maurice Hayes letters

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

expressing the Council's condolences and recognising the significant contribution which they had each made to the City.

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent resignations of the former Alderman McKee and the former Councillor Bell and welcomed Councillor Daniel Baker, who had replaced the former Councillor Bell, to his first meeting of the Council.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor Howard on being nominated for appointment as High Sheriff for 2018.

At the request of Councillor Armitage, the Lord Mayor agreed to forward to the Belfast Islamic Centre a letter highlighting the Council's condemnation of recent racist attacks on the Centre and affirming its ongoing support for the work which it was undertaking.

Requests to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from Mr. M. Scott, Secretary of County Antrim Boxing, and from Mr. T. McCorran, Secretary of the Northern Ireland Boxing Association, to address the Council on its support for boxing.

The Council acceded to the requests and Mr. Scott, together with Mr. P. Barnes Snr. and Mrs. C. McAuley were welcomed firstly to the meeting.

Mr. Barnes informed the Council that he acted as President of County Antrim Boxing, which was affiliated to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association. He explained that, since the Council's Boxing Strategy had been introduced in 2012, the number of clubs participating had risen from twenty-seven to thirty-one and that funding had been used primarily to develop young boxers, as well as coaches and referees, and to host international boxing events. He pointed out that ten of the thirteen boxers who would be representing Northern Ireland at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games had benefitted from the Boxing Strategy and urged the Council to continue to make funding available for the initiative.

Mrs. McAuley explained that she was the Irish Athletic Boxing Association's Operations Manager for its affiliated clubs in Ulster and that one of her key areas of responsibility related to equality and governance. She reported that, following a well-publicised incident in 2012, an independent review had been commissioned, which had identified ten recommendations to be addressed by the Association and two by Sport NI. She provided an overview of those recommendations, which had now been implemented in full and been endorsed by Sport NI, and confirmed that an action plan was being developed for the next stage in the process. She provided details around two significant elements of work, namely, the Pathways to GB document and a Flags and Emblems Policy, which would be publicised and implemented over the coming months and stressed that the Association would continue to promote a culture of excellence, in terms of both sporting performance and governance and equality.

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

The deputation was thanked by the Lord Mayor, who then welcomed Mr. T. McCorran and Mr. S. Titoli, representing the Northern Ireland Boxing Association, to the meeting.

Mr. McCorran explained that he had requested the opportunity to address the Council in order to highlight equality issues around the current Boxing Strategy. He pointed out that some clubs in Belfast were unable to benefit from the Strategy, as they were affiliated to the Northern Ireland Boxing Association, rather than the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, which was regarded as the solitary governing body within amateur boxing. As a result, those clubs were required to find alternative sources of funding and, importantly, their boxers were denied the opportunity to represent Northern Ireland in tournaments other than the Commonwealth Games. He informed the Council that Sport NI recognised two governing bodies in the sport of soccer and argued that there was, therefore, nothing to prevent it from recognising both the Irish Athletic Boxing Association and the Northern Ireland Boxing Association. Such a move would promote inclusion and enable boxing clubs from all areas of the City to benefit from the Council's Boxing Strategy.

Mr. McCorran and Mr. Titoli were thanked by the Lord Mayor.

The Council noted the information which had been provided.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15th December be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/2019

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Magennis,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15th December, under the heading "Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/2019", be amended to provide that the Council agrees that £200,000 be included within the revenue estimates to support the Boxing Strategy.

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

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

Notice of Motion – Amendment to Standing Order 30

Councillor Dudgeon requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute under the heading "Notice of Motion – Amendment to Standing Order 30" being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

The Chairperson declined the request.

Amendment

Notice of Motion – Amendment to Standing Order 30

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15th December, under the heading “Notice of Motion – Amendment to Standing Order 30”, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

<u>For 19</u>	<u>Against 34</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Corr Johnston, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McCabe, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.

Amendment

Notice of Motion – Amendment to Standing Order 30

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15th December, under the heading “Notice of Motion – Amendment to Standing Order 30”, be amended to provide for the insertion of the word ‘grossly’ after the word use and before the word offensive in the proposed wording.

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

Adoption of Minutes

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 15th December were thereupon approved and adopted.

Amendment to Standing Order 30

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved - That the Council agrees, in accordance with Standing Order 64, to pass, in pursuance of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's decision of 15th December, a Resolution amending Standing Order 30 to read as follows: "A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any person or section of society, including any such expression that shows contempt in relation to their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, age or disability."

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 5th December be approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,
Seconded by Alderman Kingston,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 6th and 12th December be approved and adopted.

NI Water – Living with Water

At the request of Councillor Armitage, the Council agreed that each of the Political Parties should be offered the opportunity to avail of a further briefing on this topic.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 6th and 12th December were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 13th December, 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 Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 12th December, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Sustainable Food Policy for Belfast

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

“Given the number of cities which have developed a sustainable food policy, this Council agrees to develop such a policy for Belfast, looking in particular at the opportunities which such an initiative could offer, including the employability potential.”

The motion was seconded by Alderman Spence.

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

Audio Recording of Area Working Group Meetings

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

“This Council recognises the important role that transparency, accountability and openness play in strengthening the trust of the public in their representatives; notes the important role which the audio recording of Committee meetings since January 2016 has played in that process; acknowledges that the Area Working Groups perform a vital function in allocating sums of money to worthwhile projects across Belfast; and that they will have an additional important role with the upcoming local area plans.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to commence the recording of all Area Working Group meetings to demonstrate to the public that resources are being allocated openly, fairly and transparently.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

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

Transparency of Council Funding

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

"In light of the recent recommendation from the Northern Ireland Audit Office report, this Council agrees to review the processes regarding the Local Investment Fund (LIF) and the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) to consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of the method of funding projects.

The Council believes that future Council funding should follow an open process with the advertisement of funding, have strategic objectives and have measurable outcomes."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

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

Housing Provision in Belfast

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

"This Council notes that, with the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan coming into reality, there will be a need for 66,000 new housing units by 2035. This will need an imaginative response by all, including the Council.

The Council calls upon all statutory bodies to review their land ownership and to determine if any such land is surplus and suitable for housing. Subject to legal requirements, the Council asks that consideration be given to making that land available to meet any identified housing needs and projected needs in terms of growth.

The Council is committed to a shared future and, therefore, is committed to shared housing. This shared housing should consist of community background, private and social housing."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicholl.

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

Bus Lanes

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

**Meeting of Council,
Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018**

“This Council shall submit to the Department for Infrastructure a corporate response to the Consultation on Bus Lanes within Belfast, as follows:

The Belfast Rapid Transport (BRT) lanes should not operate from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday;

Operation hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday is sufficient for the operation of the BRT lane without general traffic;

Ordinary drivers and businesses in the area will suffer badly, funerals processions will be affected and taxi drivers will find it increasingly difficult to earn a decent wage;

All taxis should be allowed into all BRT routes and all bus lanes in Belfast on a permanent basis; and

The recent twelve-week trial allowing all taxis to use the lanes in East and West Belfast and in the City centre was a success and made a noticeable improvement to traffic on these routes and should now be introduced across Belfast in all lanes permanently.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McVeigh.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 5th January, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Garrett.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Browne and Spence and Councillor Craig.

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.

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

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/19

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 agreed that it be

**Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 5th January, 2018**

considered in conjunction with the next item on the agenda, that is, the Boxing Strategy, as the proposals contained therein could have an impact on the revenue estimates.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees that £200,000 be included within the revenue estimates to support the Boxing Strategy for the next three financial years.

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

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the following proposals should be included in the 2018/19 revenue estimates:

- 1) Equality / Diversity Officer: £56,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee);
- 2) Regeneration Support Assistants. (2 posts): £68,986 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee);
- 3) Capital Financing: £1,000,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee); and
- 4) Boxing Strategy: £200,000 (People and Communities Committee).

In addition, the Committee agreed the following cash limits for 2018/19:

- (a) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee - £42,392,169
- (b) Capital Financing Budget - £20,706,901
- (c) Belfast Investment Fund - £3,270,000
- (d) People and Communities Committee - £76,027,990
- (e) City Growth and Regeneration - £16,036,980
- (f) Planning Committee - £1,551,099

The Committee agreed further that the decisions in relation to the revenue estimates and district rates 2018/19 should not be subject to call-in because it could cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interest in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2018.

Boxing Strategy

The Committee considered also the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide further detail on the request for funding to support the implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy through the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA). The report is being presented in the context of the rate setting process for 2018/19.**

The report also requests permission to produce of a Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy which would, among other things, steer future decisions on directly supporting National Governing Bodies of Sport.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the funding request in the amount of £200,000 per annum for the next three years.
- Approve the development of a Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy and an associated funding strategy.
- Consider any future funding requests from sporting bodies including IABA in the context of this strategy.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Belfast's Amateur Boxing Strategy has been funded by Belfast City Council for four years with an actual spend of approximately £140k per annum from a total fund of £600k. The original allocation was £200k per annum for 3 years.

Representatives from Antrim Boxing and IABA attended the People and Communities committee in November 2017 seeking support for funding of £200k per annum to sustain the Belfast Amateur Boxing Strategy to 2020. The Committee recommended to SP&R that the request for £200k be supported and considered through the rating process.

3.2 £200,000 Council Support for Boxing Strategy

The Antrim Boxing/IABA proposal recommends the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group (representative of BCC, Sport NI and Antrim Boxing) will continue to have oversight of delivery of the strategy outcomes and action plans, ensuring that all resources are used in Belfast for the benefit of Belfast clubs and boxers. Specific performance indicators and targets are in place. The action plan submitted by Antrim Boxing/IABA for the next phase of the Strategy has been developed using the existing themes and budget headings, namely;

**Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 5th January, 2018**

Salary – Development Officer and coaches	£75,000
Pathways	£38,000
Events	£37,000
Coach Education	£15,000
Club Support	£25,000
Governance	£10,000
Total	£200,000

Detailed action plans and performance indicators are provided in Appendix One.

3.3 Sport NI Support for Belfast Boxing Strategy

Sport NI provide direct financial support to IABA for delivery of programmes across Northern Ireland through their Sporting Clubs and Sporting Winners programmes – in total £311k to support Ulster Boxing. The Sporting Clubs indicative awards is £548,676 for the term 17/18 to 20/21, with a confirmed amount of £118,750 for year 1 awarded to IABA to support Ulster Boxing. The Sporting Winners indicative award is £861,882 for the term 17/18 to 20/21, with a confirmed amount of £192,863 for year 1 allocated to IABA to support Ulster Boxing.

Sport NI view their investment through their Sporting Clubs programme as complementary to the Belfast Boxing strategy through increased capacity within the IABA. Sport NI is confident that the sport of boxing has the capacity to deliver on multiple targets in community, club and performance contexts. It is also Sport NI's approach that it believes that sports governing bodies should be diversifying income streams and reducing reliance on Sport NI investment. This includes but is not limited to expecting organisations to source other income through membership, sponsorship and other public funding opportunities. To that end, it is positive that IABA have a strategic proposal with Belfast City Council.

3.4 Other Governing Body Funding by Belfast City Council

Generally, Belfast City Council sports programmes provide funding only to Belfast based sports organisations. Along with support to IABA for the Belfast Boxing Strategy, the other exception to this is support to the Irish Football Association (IFA) for the Stadium Community Benefits Initiative which was a requirement of the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) funding for development Olympia Leisure Centre and the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park. Council support for this Initiative is £1 million matched by £0.5 million from the IFA over ten years. This funding is held by Belfast

**Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 5th January, 2018**

City Council and delivery is co-ordinated through a Sports Development Officer.

3.5 Production of Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy

A sports development strategy will provide a framework for future decision making on providing funding to National Governing Bodies of Sport delivering programmes in Belfast in support of existing funding streams and work programmes which enhance sporting opportunities Belfast’s sporting organisations and individuals.”

The Committee noted that the funding request had been considered and agreed during discussion on the revenue estimates earlier in the meeting and agreed the following:

- That a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) be undertaken before consideration of funding for the 2019/20 financial year;
- That officers undertake work with the IABA to identify ways in which the Boxing Strategy could become self-sustaining;
- To note the proposals for the development of the Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy and associated funding strategy and that this would be progressed through the People and Communities Committee; and
- That officers work with the NI Boxing Association to identify how that organisation could be incorporated in the Boxing Strategy and/or the Sports Development Strategy.

Requests to Address the Committee – Mooreland and Owenvarragh Residents’ Association re: Casement park

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th December, it had agreed to a request to receive a deputation from representatives of the Ulster Council of the GAA in relation to the development of Casement Park.

The Democratic Services Manager advised the Members that, subsequently, a request to address the Committee had also been received from the Chairperson of the Mooreland and Owenvarragh Residents’ Association in relation to concerns and issues it had with the development. He suggested that, given that the GAA was scheduled to attend the meeting on 19th January, if the Committee was minded to accede to the request it would be appropriate for the representatives of the Residents’ Association to attend that meeting also and he recommended accordingly.

A Member pointed out that he was aware of a number of other groups which were in favour of the proposals for the development of Casement Park, such as Gaels for Casement, Faite Feirste Thiar and other resident’s groups who would also like to address the Committee.

**Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 5th January, 2018**

After discussion, the Committee agreed to accede to the request from Mooreland and Owenvarragh Residents' Association and to invite those other aforementioned groups to its meeting on 19th January, with the meeting commencing at the earlier time of 9.00 a.m. in order to accommodate the deputations. The Committee agreed also that the groups be requested to submit, if possible, in advance of the meeting any prepared statements or presentations.

**Rockefeller Foundation and the International Urban
Co-operation Programme**

The Committee was reminded that, as part of its global 100 cities work, the Rockefeller Foundation had lodged a proposal for Belfast to participate in the International Urban Co-operation (IUC) Programme for sustainable urban development. The Chief Executive explained that IUC membership would provide national support for an 18-month exchange programme at a senior level between Belfast and the Columbian cities of Cali and Medellin which would focus on post-conflict urban development, on themes of social inclusion, regional/urban innovation and competitiveness; and inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The outline proposal was to build on the existing links that Belfast had with Columbia, including the increasing trade links being fostered by Invest NI and the work of the British Council in Northern Ireland which was planning a major Belfast initiative with Columbia in 2018. The Rockefeller Foundation funded Resilience Commissioners in both Columbian cities and had indicated that its resilience work to date could inform aspects of the new Belfast Commissioner.

European Commission officials had accepted the proposal and had now asked the Council to confirm by 10th January, 2018 if it wished to proceed with membership of the programme. Following confirmation, IUC officials would work with partners to agree a joint programme of work and these draft proposals would be presented to the Members.

The Committee approved the Council's participation, with the Rockefeller Foundation, Invest NI, the British Council NI and other city partners, in the International Urban Co-operation Programme.

Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 19th January, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Browne and Councillor Hutchinson

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd January.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in respect of item 6a Physical Programme Update in so far as he was he was a shareholder with Glentoran Football Club.

Councillor Hutchinson

The Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded to Councillor Hutchinson expressing its wishes that he has a speedy recovery following his recent accident.

Presentations – Casement Park

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th December, it had agreed to receive representatives of the Ulster Council of the GAA to provide a presentation on the development of Casement Park.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

Subsequently, at its meeting on 5th January, the Committee had agreed to receive deputations from a number of other organisations in relation to the development.

The Chairperson advised the Members that the Committee would not be discussing issues in relation to an open Planning Application as there were other processes ongoing where such issues could be raised.

Ulster Council of the GAA

Accordingly, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed to the meeting Mr. S. McGeehan, Mr R. Miskelly and Mr. F. Quinn.

Mr. McGeehan stated that the focus of the presentation would be on the development proposals and the socio-economic, cultural and community benefits that the redeveloped Casement Park would bring both to the City and Ulster and also the links to the Belfast Agenda, which the GAA saw as central to the development.

He then outlined the background to and the current position in relation to the planning application and the consultation process which had been undertaken regarding the proposals. He then highlighted the major sporting and cultural benefits the stadium would bring and expressed the organisation's desire to bring the Ulster Football Final to the stadium for the first time since 1971. He reviewed the need to strengthen gaelic games within the city, as traditionally its rural areas were strong, and install civic pride in the new stadium.

Mr McGeehan explained that, from a community perspective, the GAA wished to reach out to communities beyond the traditional community within its own membership and wanted the facility to be used by all.

With regard to the economic and business benefits, there would be £31.8 million Gross Value Added to the economy during construction and it would create 315 full time equivalent jobs. The Ulster Council wanted to see the stadium have a regenerative effect around west Belfast and the wider Belfast area and be seen as a catalyst for bringing major sporting events, tourism, hospitality and business to the city.

From 2020/21 onwards, during operation of the new facility, economic reports had indicated that there would be a direct increase in spend of £6.7 million per annum in the economy as a direct result of Casement Park. This would include 13,300 out of state visitors staying in Belfast for major events, which was significant for businesses in Belfast. During operation, the Stadium would provide 71 full time equivalent jobs.

The Committee then viewed a short video which described in visual terms what the Ulster Council wished to deliver at Casement Park, following which the representatives of the deputation answered a number of questions from the Members.

**Mooreland and Owenvarragh
Residents' Association**

Ms. C. McCavana, Mr. T Dignan and Ms. AM Hughes, representing the abovementioned Association, were then invited to address the Committee.

Ms. McCavana advised that the Association had been founded in January, 2012 following a public meeting. She indicated that the organisation was not against a new stadium but wished to see a suitably sized redevelopment of the stadium which was GAA orientated, no concerts, which was safe, which was part of the natural fabric of the community and which had an appropriate mass and scale for the area.

Mr. Dignan referred to the presentation which the Association had circulated to the Committee and drew the Members' attention to the following key points:

- The GAA's requirement for a provincial stadium was best satisfied at a different location;
- On the Casement Park site, a smaller stadium, dedicated to GAA events:
 - would be less expensive
 - would lever many, if not all, of the purported wider social benefits; and
 - would mitigate the range of social and environmental impacts.

The Association had had a long standing policy position that, in sporting terms, the site could fit a stadium with a capacity of between 20,000 – 25,000 persons. Since that policy position had been set, there had been a number of developments in relation to issues around safe evacuation.

He referred to a map of the local area around Casement Park which showed the ground fronted by the Andersonstown Road and, on the remaining three sides, by residential properties which abutted right up against the stadium. That created a set of constraints in relation to access to and egress from the ground.

Mr. Dignan referred also to the proposed costs which indicated that Casement Park would require public funding of £62.5 million, which could be used for other services. The Gross Value Added (GVA), as indicated in the Deloitte report, was approximately £1.7 million per annum, which was only 0.004% of the Northern Ireland total GVA, which for the 37 jobs was a net cost of £1.7 million per job.

In conclusion, he stated that the Association was aware that west Belfast contained areas of high social and economic deprivation and there was a need for interventions across a range of dimensions. The argument which the Association was making was that those needs, in the specific context of Casement Park, were best addressed by a smaller scale stadium.

The deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members.

Gaels for Casement

Mr. B White and Ms. J. Adams, representing Gaels for Casement, were then invited to address the Committee.

Mr. White explained that Gaels for Casement was a grass roots organisation made up entirely of local GAA members. It had been established following the first Judicial Review which had halted the redevelopment of Casement Park. It was formed specifically to give voice to local Gaels to support Casement Park, to raise the profile of Casement within clubs and to campaign for a fit for purpose facility. The organisation had secured the support of every club in Belfast and had led the campaign #buildcasement.

Ms Adams outline her sporting achievements and their relationship to playing at Casement Park. She stated that the Gaelic sports needed Casement Park and the new proposal, together with the extensive consultation, from the GAA was to be welcomed.

The deputation then left the table.

Failte Feirste Thiar

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. H. Connolly and Mr. K. Gamble.

Mr. Connolly outlined the purpose, role and strategic objectives of Failte Feirste Thiar and the long standing relationship with the GAA in promoting games to locals and visitors alike. He highlighted that Casement Park had for decades attracted high volumes of tourists to Belfast and he provided examples of events in this regard. He referred to the Windsor Park and Ravenhill developments and the transformative impact they had generated and that Casement Park was the final piece in the stadia puzzle.

He expressed the view that Casement Park had the potential to transform west Belfast from a positive social, community, cultural and economic perspective and would provide employment. Mr Connolly outlined the work undertaken by Failte Feirste Thiar with other stakeholders to focus on maximising economic tourism at the local level and how Casement Park would complement this. He referred also to visits undertaken to other cities and a seminar hosted by his organisation which showed how stadia and the community could live and function together and how it could complement and drive the city economy.

In conclusion, he expressed support for the development and requested the Council to support it and then left the table.

Andersonstown Regeneration Committee

Mr. M. O'Hara representing the Andersonstown Regeneration Committee (ARC) was welcomed to the meeting.

He outlined the purpose of the organisation and how it had been established following the decision to reject the first planning application for Casement Park. He explained that it had been formed to be a positive voice to support the delivery of

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

strategic regeneration initiatives in the Andersonstown area. The members of ARC were made up of local residents and the wider Andersonstown community, many of whom lived beside Casement.

Throughout its existence, ARC had engaged many times with many bodies to share enthusiasm and support for the project. The group was aware and acknowledged a number of the concerns which had been raised. It had met with the Project Board to discuss size, scale and safety and hoped the planned amendments being proposed would address those concerns.

Mr. O'Hara explained that the stadium provided a great opportunity for community participation and involvement in the facility and how it could be used. Should the stadium proceed, it was anticipated that there would be continued engagement to understand how that use could be maximised for the community.

He concluded by highlighting the need for the investment in the Andersonstown area and stated that, on behalf of the group, the hope that the stadium would be endorsed and he left the table.

West Belfast Partnership Board

Mr. Girvan representing the Board, was welcomed to the meeting.

He commenced by outlining the role and purpose of the Board and how Casement Park fitted within its strategic aims. He stated that the Board recognised the benefits that the residents of west Belfast would get from Casement through health, employment and education and, in particular, saw it as a catalyst for young people to tackle health inequalities for the future.

The Board had recently completed a Social Investment Fund employability programme and recognised the employment opportunities Casement would provide to allow young people to build skills and capacity through apprenticeships and work placements and full time employment and how this linked to the Councils Leisure Transformation Programme and the Belfast Agenda.

Mr. Girvan then left the table.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

Belfast City Council welcomes this considerable investment in a further modern stadium in the city. This is a vital part of our sporting infrastructure and we welcome the impact it will have on sport, the economy and jobs.

In making this strategic corporate statement we understand that the planning process is there to ensure that planning policy and concerns and aspirations of residents and others are considered in depth and that we are a statutory consultee to that process. We have and will continue to input to that process through our planning team and the Planning Committee.

Restricted Items

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussions 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 (NI) 2014.

Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary Events

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 24th November, 2017, it had approved a pilot cash flow facility to support the delivery of one-off arts and festival events across the city. Accordingly, a request had been received from Féile an Phobail to avail of the cash flow mechanism in relation to the up-front costs of the 30th Anniversary Events in August 2018.

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

The Committee approves the proposal for the Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary Events planned for August 2018 to avail of the cash flow mechanism to cover upfront costs up to a cap of £300,000 which would be recouped through the direct receipt of ticket sales from Ticketmaster, subject to:

- appropriate legal agreements between the Council, Ticketmaster and Féile an Phobail; and
- cancellation insurance cover in place to the satisfaction of the Council and Ticketmaster.

On a recorded vote ten Members voted for the proposal and six against and it was declared carried

<u>For 10</u>	<u>Against 6</u>
Councillors Hargey, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Long, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill, Walsh	Aldermen Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence; Councillors Graham and Reynolds

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

Update on funding position at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

The Committee considered the contents of a report which provided an update on the funding situation regarding The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) following engagement with the Department for Communities (DFC).

The Committee:

- noted the update on the funding position of The MAC;
- noted the correspondence which had been received from the Department for Communities' Permanent Secretary;
- noted the proposed engagement with relevant department officials at officer level and the commitment to feed back to the Committee; and
- agreed that representatives of The MAC be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

Recruitment Update

The Committee noted an update in relation to the recruitment of Chief Officer posts.

Rate Setting 2018-19

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on the 5 January 2018, considered the proposed 2018/19 revenue budgets and proposed cash limits for the Strategic Policy and Resources, People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees.**
- 1.2 The Committee agreed the recommended cash limits for the Strategic Policy and Resources, People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees, subject to consultation with the other Committees prior to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 19 January 2018.**
- 1.3 This report provides feedback from the meetings of the People and Communities Committee on the 9 January 2018 and the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on the 10 January 2018. A verbal update from the meeting of the Planning Committee on the 16 January 2018 will be provided at the meeting. This report also makes the final recommendations for the Committee Cash Limits, Capital Financing Limit and District Rate for 2018/19.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree that this paper should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February 2018.
- Confirm the cash limits agreed by the Committee at its meeting on the 5 January 2018 as follows:
 - A cash limit of £45,662,169 for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2018/19, including £3,270,000 relating to the Belfast Investment Fund.
 - A cash limit of £76,027,990 for the People and Communities Committee for 2018/19.
 - A cash limit of £16,036,980 for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2018/19.
 - A cash limit of £1,551,099 for the Planning Committee for 2018/19.
 - The capital financing budget of £20,706,901 for 2018/19.
- Agree that the increase in the district rate for 2018/19 should be 1.98%, based on an estimated penny product of 5,953,980 meaning a non-domestic rate of 26.8703 and a domestic rate of 0.3263 and that the amount to be raised through the district rate in 2018/19 will be £154,726,087.
- Note the Director of Finance and Resources statement on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and the robustness of the revenue estimates as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011.
- Note the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (Appendix 5) as required by the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (NI) 2011.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 Table 1 below summarises the net cost of the Council for 2018/19 and shows that the amount to be raised through the district rate in 2018/19 is £154,726,087. This represents a 1.98% increase in the district rate.**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

Table 1 Cost of Running the Council in 2018/19

	Cost (£)
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	42,392,169
People and Communities Committee	76,027,990
City Growth and Regeneration Committee	16,036,980
Planning Committee	1,551,099
Net Departmental Expenditure	136,008,238
Belfast Investment Fund	3,270,000
Capital Financing	20,706,901
Total Net Council Expenditure	159,985,139
Less Derating Grant	-5,259,052
Amount to be Raised from the District Rate	154,726,087

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Cash Limit

- 3.2 The recommended cash limit for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed by the Committee at its meeting on the 5 January 2018 is £45,662,169, which includes £3,270,000 relating to the Belfast Investment Fund and the additional £1.6m of funding for European Capital of Culture (£374k), City Centre Regeneration (£240k) and City Deal (£1m).
- 3.3 The revenue estimates for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee comprise the revenue budgets for the Chief Executive's Department including City Centre Regeneration, Property and Projects Department and the Finance and Resources Department.
- 3.4 The budget for each main service area and corporate finance budgets are summarised in Appendix 1.

People and Communities Committee Cash Limit

- 3.5 The People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on the 9 January 2018, noted the revenue budget and cash limit of £76,027,990 as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Each main service area is summarised in Appendix 2.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee Cash Limit

- 3.6 The City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on the 10 January 2018, noted the revenue budget and cash limit of £16,036,980 as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Each main service area is summarised in Appendix 3.

Planning Committee Cash Limit

- 3.7 The Planning Committee at its meeting on the 16 January 2018, considered the revenue budget and cash limit of £1,551,099 as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. A verbal update from the Planning Committee will be provided at the meeting. Each main service area is summarised in Appendix 4.

Belfast Investment Fund

- 3.8 The annual contribution to the Belfast Investment Fund is £3,270,000 and this is included in the Strategic Policy and Resources Cash Limit above.

Capital Financing Budget

- 3.9 The Council will have secured a capital financing budget of £20,706,901 in 2018/19 to support its capital investment programme. This includes increases to the capital financing budget as a result of efficiencies generated by the Waterfront Hall (£200k) and Accommodation Strategy (£755k) along with the inclusion of £1m increase to the capital financing budget as agreed at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 5 January 2018.

The 2018/19 capital financing budget is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Capital Financing Budget 2018/19

Capital Financing	(£)
Capital Programme	11,312,676
Transferred LGR Loans	677,319
Leisure Investment Programme	7,100,906
Accommodation Efficiencies	1,416,000
BWUH Efficiencies	200,000
Total	20,706,901

De-rating Grant

- 3.10 The grant received from central government (De-rating Grant) which compensates the Council for de-rated properties will decrease by £29,126 to £5,259,052 in 2018/19.

Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011

- 3.11 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 requires the Director of Finance and Resources, in his role as designated chief financial officer, to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates. The Finance Act requires the Council to have regard to this statement when considering the estimates and the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates. He is also required to report on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process.
- 3.12 The development of the revenue estimates for 2018/19 commenced in June 2017 with the identification of uncontrollable costs arising from external influences, the development of the detailed budgets at cost centre and account code level across the organisation and the consideration and challenge of base budgets and growth proposals.
- 3.13 Reports were presented to the Strategic Policy Resources Committee from August 2017 to January 2018 which detailed the budgetary pressures facing the Council, based on uncontrollable costs (e.g. salary costs including pay rise and pensions, utilities, waste contracts) and additional investment to support the Belfast Agenda. These reports also provided updates to Committee on the efficiency programme which resulted in £3,008,951 of efficiencies being removed from base budgets.
- 3.14 As the result of this process the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the estimates presented should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2018/19 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council have been made in the preparation of the estimates.
- 3.15 Alongside the development of the revenue estimates, work was undertaken with Land and Property Services (LPS), supported by the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to validate the Estimated Penny Product for 2018/19 including losses on collection.

- 3.16 The increase in the rate base, due primarily to more commercial properties coming on the valuation list, resulted in the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) being increased by £83,790 (1.48%) which generates an additional annual rates income of £2,076,392. This revised EPP has been included in the district rate calculations.
- 3.17 The Council's general reserves position is forecast to be £14.2m by the end of 2017/18. The Director of Finance and Resources believes that the level of reserves should be maintained at this level to safeguard the Council's exposure to financial risk including any backdated element of non-domestic revaluation appeals.
- 3.18 The Director of Finance and Resources is therefore satisfied with the robustness of the revenue estimates and that the reserves position is adequate for the Council and does not require enhancement though the district rate in 2018/19.

Regional Rate

- 3.19 The Regional Rate has not been set at this stage.

Impact on Ratepayer

- 3.20 Table 3 below illustrates the impact of a 1.98% increase in the district rate on ratepayers by average property type.

Table 3: Impact on Ratepayer by Property Type

Property Type	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase
Terraced House	£5.48	£0.46
3 Bed Semi-Detached	£8.38	£0.70
4 Bed Detached	£18.63	£1.55
Apartment	£5.29	£0.44
Average Office	£144.02	£12.00
Average Retail	£140.53	£11.71

Communication

- 3.21 It is proposed to use the following key messages for the announcement of the agreed rate:
- Belfast City Council has agreed a district rate increase of 1.98% which is 1.02% below the current rate of inflation.
 - To set this level of district rate, the Council has delivered £3.0m of cash savings without impacting on frontline service delivery.

- The average impact on domestic ratepayers is less than £1 per month or less than £10 per year. Business and offices will pay on average an extra £12 per month or £143 per year.
- The Council has shown responsible leadership by achieving the balance between investing in the city to secure jobs and grow the economy during these difficult times while also providing value for money services.
- The Council's long term strategy is to improve the retail and hotel offering and office and business infrastructure to attract major investors and businesses to the city in order to increase its rate income, with the effect of further investment and keeping rates as low as possible.
- The Council will continue to maintain and improve its services, to invest in local communities while at the same time committing to generate further efficiency savings £3 million in the next year.
- Over the past three years of the current Council Term the District Rate increase has been maintained below the rate of inflation providing a real term reduction.
- The Council will invest:
 - £18.77m in city centre regeneration projects
 - £40m in local regeneration projects
 - £150m in providing new facilities and refurbishing existing ones
 - £105m in new leisure facilities.

3.22 In addition, Corporate Communications will produce a press release for Members. A pull out section on the district rate, services and capital investment will be provided in the next edition of City Matters. The My Rates Page on the website will be updated.

3.23 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The report details the cash limits and level of district rate required to meet the additional financing requirement of the Council for 2018/19.

3.24 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Corporate Priorities.	6,372,785
City Centre Regeneration	1,389,322
Human Resources	3,040,950
Democratic Services	2,098,133
Corporate Communications	1,215,412
Central Support Unit	1,745,112
Legal Services	1,682,493
Strategic Policy	727,813
Corporate Management	1,663,474
Finance & Performance	2,425,147
Digital Services	4,972,859
Audit	1,025,714
Corporate Directorate	1,048,441
Property Mgmt	1,756,917
Estates	-4,632,135
Facilities	14,684,639
Contracts	784,621
Good Relations	390,472
COMMITTEE TOTAL	42,392,169
Belfast Investment Fund	3,270,000
Capital Financing	20,706,901

APPENDIX 2

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Cleansing	17,837,368
Community Services	6,704,110
Directorate Support	2,704,307
Environmental Health	6,945,147
Leisure - GLL	7,800,000
Leisure - BCC	327,879
Neighbourhood & Development	4,103,076
Parks & Cemetery Services	9,162,979
Waste Management	20,443,124
COMMITTEE TOTAL	76,027,990

APPENDIX 3

CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Economic Initiatives & ID	9,200,897
Development Directorate	2,637,682
City Events & Venues	4,156,659
Carparking	-1,098,487
Estates	356,825
Zoo	879,231
North Foreshore	-95,827
COMMITTEE TOTAL	16,036,980

PLANNING COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Planning	1,228,820
Building Control	322,279
COMMITTEE TOTAL	1,551,099

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in the report.

European Capital of Culture – Update

The Committee noted an update which was provided by the Chief Executive on the Council's bid for the European Capital of Culture.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion re: Education Support

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 In December 2017, the Committee considered and agreed to the Notice of Motion on Education Support which was proposed by former Councillor Bell and 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."

- 1.2 The Belfast Agenda drives the city's ambitions for Inclusive Growth and improving life chances for all citizens. This includes boosting attainment levels at all stages of life and ensuring that people have the skills they need for the jobs of the future as well as building a labour market that provides sustainable employment, removing barriers to employment and addressing and mitigating poverty. One of the four core ambitions is that 'by 2035 every young person in Belfast leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential'.
- 1.3 The Council has already been scaling up its level of investment in Employability and Skills activity which is overseen by the Council's City Growth & Regeneration Committee. At its meeting in January 2018, the Committee noted the following headline targets to be achieved in the current financial year:
- Up to 1,500 residents will be supported to find a job. To date, more than 1,000 residents have entered employment (735 through European Social Fund (ESF) and Employment Academies and 313 through our entrepreneurship (including Go for It programme) and business development support);
 - 4,000 residents will be engaged through employability interventions (e.g. careers insight activities) and early engagement projects (with 2,928 people engaged to date);

- Over 1,000 students and young people to be engaged through career events and digital skills programmes (715 young people engaged to date);
- Over 290 work experience opportunities to be provided through the Council and key employers across the city (with 25 employers signed up to provide the 290 work experience opportunities to date).

1.4 This report provides an overview of the work currently being undertaken by Council to tackle educational inequalities and the Employability and Skills challenges in the city in the context of the Belfast Agenda and proposes how the Notice of Motion might be taken forward.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the variety of mechanisms and activities currently provided to support educational attainment and the Council's commitment to enhancing Employability and Skills development for all citizens;
- Note the ongoing engagement with city stakeholders on this issue and agree to progress a scoping exercise to enhance the existing evidence base and support further collaboration and partnership working to ensure the Council continues to add value to help tackle the city's challenges associated with educational inequalities.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

With Inclusive Growth at the heart of the Belfast Agenda, a core ambition is that every young person in Belfast leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential by 2035. It makes explicit commitments to ensuring that children and young people can get the best start in life and to proactively and collaboratively addressing educational inequalities for those who are socially disadvantaged.

3.2 The Council's Employability & Skills Framework 2015-2025 mirrors this commitment, recognising that this will require a more integrated approach to learning and skills, ensuring that young people are supported through the education system and by their peer networks to develop their aspirations; to make informed career choices, based on labour market intelligence and have access to opportunities to experience the world of work. The framework also recognises a need to

promote alternative routes into employment through entrepreneurship.

- 3.3 Access to an effective education system aligned to current and future employment needs are vital components of an effective pathway to employment across all skill levels. The activities being undertaken by Council in this regard span across the Growing the Economy and Working and Learning priorities of the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.4 At the June meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members heard presentations from education experts working with young people across the city. These focused, in particular, on the innovative approaches that they are developing to focus on young people who risk leaving school without minimum education standards and also on new ways of improving work placements and careers guidance to help young people to navigate the world of work and explore new employment opportunities.
- 3.5 Council Officers have also engaged with a wider group of careers teachers from across the city to identify interventions that they might find useful in delivering their work and improving the work experience and skills development opportunities of the young people within their schools. This identified the need to simplify the current system, to provide access to meaningful work placements and to support the provision of high quality and timely information to give young people insights into the world of work. The Council is working directly with schools and support organisations across the city, with a focus on improving skills and enhancing employability. However, it is clear that there are also more fundamental challenges around achieving basic levels of literacy and numeracy and these risk impacting on the City's competitiveness, as well as reducing the ability of those individuals to access meaningful employment and, as a result, increasing the chances of falling into poverty.
- 3.6 The importance of engaging with children and young people outside the formal school setting has been noted and Council support is provided to encourage engagement with young people through sports and alternative mechanisms. The City & Neighbourhood Services Department also provides support through the Community Centre network, Play Services and Sports Development. Activities include homework clubs, after-schools clubs, and volunteering. There is also an opportunity to further consider how outreach and engagement work and employer engagement activity can align to the Local Area Working approach that is being developed. This would not only support the physical

improvement of those areas but also help to improve skills and create sustainable employment opportunities. The third sector has a vital role in this creating avenues for engagement and working with communities to help overcome various barriers to learning at post-primary level.

3.7 Given the complexity of the barriers to learning within communities and the need to work in partnership to tackle the educational and employability challenges in the city, it is proposed that Officers will undertake a scoping exercise to collate the existing range of supports and activity underway in the city. This work will enhance the existing evidence base and identify potential opportunities, gaps and areas for further collaboration with a view to developing and securing support for targeted interventions that can contribute to the continued improvement in literacy and numeracy within local communities and look at how it can help overcome various barriers to learning at post-primary level. A report will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and approval. The Committee is also asked to note the ongoing programme of engagement with Members that has been agreed through the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in order to progress the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda and for the Council to take on a more strategic and operational role on Employability and Skills development issues. A special meeting of the Committee is planned for 21 February 2018.

3.8 The Committee is also asked to note that Council Officers are continuing to engage with government departments and the Belfast City Region Councils to identify areas for collaboration and to add value to improve educational levels, Employability and Skills as part of the work on the Belfast Region City Deal. This engagement activity may help identify additional opportunities to lever resources and maximise the impact of any Council investment.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial implications associated with enhancing the evidence base will be met within existing departmental budgets. Members should also be aware that the expansion of the Employability and Skills workstreams will require an increase in the current budget allocated to this area which will be managed through the annual estimates process. There is also potential to leverage funding from central government and other income streams once this work is developed.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report; subsequent actions will be agreed and considered in discussion with the Equality and Good Relations Officers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Citizens’ Basic Income –
Motion – proposed next steps**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on a Notice of Motion that was brought to the Council in October 2017 and was subsequently presented to the Strategic Policy in Resources Committee on 20 October 2017.

1.2 The Notice of Motion relates to a proposal to explore the implementation of a Citizens’ Basic Income (CBI) scheme. The principle behind a CBI scheme is that all citizens – regardless of their employment status – would receive a basic weekly or monthly income payment. Citizens would then be able to work and earn additional income on top of the basic payment. For those in receipt of benefits, the CBI would replace many of these.

1.3 The Notice of Motion proposes that the Council ‘will undertake a feasibility study into how it might support a pilot study concentrated within our most deprived communities’. This would potentially mean that a Belfast CBI would be focused on certain target groups or areas of the City.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- Note the Notice of Motion proposed at Council meeting on 2 October 2017 regarding the potential implementation of a Citizens’ Basic Income Scheme
- Note that Officers will liaise with Officials in Northern Ireland Executive with a view to undertaking a feasibility study into how the scheme might support a pilot study concentrated within the City’s most deprived communities.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 2 October 2017, the following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson:**

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

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

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

- 3.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Notice of Motion was referred to the Committee for consideration. At the 20 October 2017 meeting of the SP&R Committee, Members agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting.**
- 3.3 The concept of a Citizens' Basic Income has been around for some time as part of policy discussions on how to make public benefits systems more effective. It has come to the forefront in recent months with the announcement in September 2017 by the Scottish Government that they would make available resources for local authorities to undertake research into the introduction of Citizens' Basic Income schemes in their areas. The principal driver behind this development is to look at how the Welfare System can incentivise work as opposed to potentially acting as a deterrent to work – particularly for those whose earnings levels are low.**
- 3.4 A CBI payment is usually made to all citizens. It is not means tested and does not increase or decrease as an individual's circumstances change. The allowance is generally free of tax but it replaces personal allowances and tax credits. It would replace a number of benefits but would not replace benefits such as disability benefit, maternity benefit, housing benefit**

or bereavement-based benefits. Given that the CBI is tax free, it would mean that all income would then be liable for tax.

- 3.5 Research undertaken by the Public Policy Charity Reform Scotland suggests setting the CBI at a rate of £5,200 per adult (£100 per week). Its assessment indicates that it would cost around £2billion annually to introduce such a scheme (alternative research suggests that the costs to the Scottish government could actually be as high as £3.6billion). It would also require an increase in the contributions from all those paying income tax.
- 3.6 At present, the Scottish Government does not have the full legislative authority to bring about the introduction of a scheme such as this. However, it has been piloted in a number of European countries, including Finland, where all adults are entitled to a monthly income of €580, regardless of whether they work or not.
- 3.7 The introduction of a CBI in the local context would require support from the NI Executive, given that they have the responsibility for the benefits system. Consideration would also have to be given to how any additional funding requirement would be met. The Notice of Motion proposes that the CBI would focus on 'our most deprived communities'. It would be important to consider how any future CBI could be focused or targeted towards certain groups or within certain geographical areas.
- 3.8 It is proposed that Officers will engage with relevant departmental officials to consider how a CBI and/or other relevant policy instruments might be effective as part of a range of interventions to address the challenges of low skills and low levels of employment, particularly within some of the City's communities. A report on how this might work alongside other employability support activities will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for information and consideration.
- 3.9 Equality and good relations implications
- No specific equality or good relations implications at this point.
- 3.10 Resource implications
- The financial implications of any new scheme will be considered as part of the future report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

**Motion – Audio Recording of
Area Based Working Groups**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 3rd January, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds and seconded by Councillor O'Neill:

“This Council recognises the important role that transparency, accountability and openness play in strengthening the trust of the public in their representatives; notes the important role audio recording of committee meetings since January 2016; acknowledges that the Area Working Groups perform a vital function in allocating sums of money to worthwhile projects across Belfast; that they will have an additional important role with the upcoming local area plans; and, agrees to commence recording of all Area Working Group meetings to demonstrate to the public that resources are being allocated openly, fairly and transparently”

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

In order to provide some relevant background, the Committee was requested to take account of the following points when considering the Motion.

At the first Annual Meeting of the Council in April 2015, it had been decided that a traditional Committee style governance system would operate for the duration of the Council Term. That type of system provided for the establishment of a number of Committees which considered the operation of the Council services and (except where the Council delegated its powers to the Committee as in the Planning and Licensing Committees) make recommendations to the full Council which was, ultimately, the decision-making body.

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, at Section 47, required the Council, so far as was practicable, to make an audio recording of so much of any Council meeting which was open to the public and required that the audio recording must be available to the public at the Council offices for a period of 6 years from the date of the meeting. The Council had, for a number of years, gone further than that requirement by providing for a live webcast of the Council meetings through the Council website.

There was no requirement within the 2014 Act for the proceedings of Committee meetings to be audio recorded. However, the Council, in September, 2015, had agreed to provide for the audio recording of all of its Standing Committees which took place in the Lavery Room in the City Hall. That decision had been extended further in December, 2015 to allow for the audio recording of the Planning Committee meetings which routinely took place in the Banqueting Hall in the City Hall.

Accordingly, the Council had been audio recording its Standing Committee meetings since January, 2016 based upon an operating protocol.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

For a number of years, pre-dating the establishment of the new Council in 2015, the Council, in addition to the establishment of its Standing Committees, had formed a number of Working Groups, the purpose of which was to allow for early deliberation of matters by the political process before reports were submitted for formal consideration by the Standing Committees and ultimately the full Council. Those Working Groups were not decision-making bodies and could only make recommendations for a Standing Committee to consider. They were not governed by the rules set out in the 2014 Act and were entirely discretionary. Therefore, the Council decided itself upon the membership, remit and procedures for these Working Groups. Accordingly, the reports to be considered by Working Groups were not publicly available in the way in which Committee reports were published, as required under Part 8 of the 2014 Act. As such, officers could include details in Working Group reports which would, if the same reports were to be presented to a Standing Committee, require to be restricted from public view due to the confidential nature of the information provided. The Working Groups were a less formal way in which discussions could commence on matters which would, ultimately, come before a Standing Committee for formal approval.

There were not any technical issues involved in the audio recording of Area Based Working Groups as the equipment used was portable and could be set up for meetings which took place in the Conor Room as easily as for those which took place in the Lavery Room. There would not be any significant additional expenditure involved should the Committee decide to proceed with the audio recording of those meetings.

Should the Committee decide to proceed with the audio recording of the Area Based Working Groups then this would be subject to the already established protocol. Therefore, if those meetings were receiving presentations from any third parties or deputations, then the prior approval of those persons would have to be obtained prior to the audio recording of that part of the meeting for which they were in attendance. If such approval was not forthcoming, then the audio recording would be paused during that person's presentation.

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to the audio recording of the meetings of the Area Based Working Groups.

On a vote by show of hands, ten members voted for the proposal and one against and it was declared carried.

Motion re: Transparency of Council Funding

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a Motion in relation to the Transparency of Council Funding until its meeting on 16th February to enable legal opinion to be obtained.

Motion re: Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

The Committee deferred consideration of the Motion until its meeting on 16th February.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

Motion - Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds

The Committee was reminded that, the Council, at its meeting on 1st November, had passed the following Motion on Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds, which had been proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna;

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

The Democratic Services Manager reported that a response had now been received from Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was responsible for elections policy in Northern Ireland.

Lord Duncan had stated that the Government recognised and highly valued the contribution which young people made to society. However, he pointed out that, of those countries within the European Union, only Austria had lowered its voting age to 16 years for national elections and that most democracies considered 18 to be the appropriate age to enfranchise young people. He confirmed that the UK Government continued to hold the view that 18 years was the age at which most young people were likely to be sufficiently politically aware, mature and independent to decide who should represent them and concluded by thanking the Council for its interest in this issue.

The Committee noted receipt of the response.

Motion - Universal Credit

The Council, at its meeting on 1st November, had passed the following Motion on Universal Credit, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Kyle:

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

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

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

The Democratic Services Manager reported that a response had now been received by Mr O'Reilly, however, a response had not yet been received from the Secretary of State.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

He pointed that Mr. O'Reilly had stated that the Department for Communities, having drawn upon the experience of the Department for Work and Pensions, had adopted a phased approach for the roll-out of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. The process, which had commenced in September, 2017 in the Limavady Jobs and Benefits Office, would cover a twelve-month period and be rolled out to offices in Belfast in May and June, 2018.

Mr. O'Reilly had then outlined the financial and other support which the Department for Communities would provide to claimants during the roll-out period and beyond and provided an analysis of the Universal Credit service to date. However, he did not address the request to meet with a delegation from the Council, as alluded to within the motion.

The Committee noted the response which it had received from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Communities.

The Committee agreed also that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the 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 training, as had been agreed by the Council on 1st November when it had considered the motion.

Belfast Agenda

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 recent progress and next steps on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **note the next steps in the development of the Belfast City Region Deal**
- **agree to commission Future Cities Catapult to develop proposals for the Digital Infrastructure element of the city deal.**
- **agree that the party group leaders and chair of SP&R attend the next meeting of the joint city region deal councillors' forum on 12 February.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will be aware that momentum for the Belfast City Region Deal has increased over the past few weeks with the

chancellor's announcement in the autumn budget statement that he would 'open negotiations for a Belfast (Region) City Deal as part of our commitment to a comprehensive and ambitious set of City Deals for Northern Ireland'.

- 3.2 The commitment to the Belfast Region City Deal received further support with the visit of Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to the city where he met with members and stakeholders from across the six councils to hear about the emerging proposals. In response he lent his support to the ambitious proposition and an ongoing commitment to working to further develop the deal with Belfast and across Northern Ireland.
- 3.3 The committee will also be aware that a specified reserve of £500K has been created to support a programme of work aimed at ensuring 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. This includes development of the overall policy context, programme management, project development, governance and stakeholder engagement and was outlined to members at their meeting in November 2017.

Timeline for the development of the deal

- 3.4 Following the visit of the SoS, officers have been engaging with officials from DCLG to agree an overall timeframe for the development of firm proposals with a view to getting a deal agreed in the autumn 2018. The first step in this is to develop a further proposition paper by April 2018 providing more detail and analysis on the region, its economy, emerging growth sectors and the case for investment. This will be informed by the Belfast City Region Industrial Framework which is currently being drafted. This proposition will also include key outcomes and emerging projects linked to the three themes of infrastructure, innovation and skills with indicative costs. It is envisaged that following discussions with DCLG, HMT and NI Executive the proposition will be subject to economic modelling and be further developed with individual business cases with a view to having an overall programme including outcomes for consideration in September 2018.
- 3.5 Further evaluation of the overall programme will then take place between central, regional and local government with a view to having an agreed Heads of Term by November 2018. Detailed programme and project plans are now being developed in line with this timeframe.

Digital Infrastructure

- 3.6 Initial work on the Infrastructure aspect of the City Region Deal has identified 'digital infrastructure' as a particularly important element of the bid. This is in terms of its potential to contribute to increased productivity across the entire economy, but also in supporting skills development and in bringing innovation, resilience and future-proofing to the other investments associated with a successful City Region Deal.
- 3.7 'Digital infrastructure' represents investment in next generation Fibre and Mobile networks. But it also includes the 'digital layer' on top of traditional infrastructure – ie, the control & monitoring systems, sensors and analytics that overlay transport, water, energy and other systems, to support the management of such systems and to aid region-wide planning, modelling and decision-making.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the Government's Future Cities Catapult is commissioned to engage with the six councils to provide an analysis that draws on the latest technological developments and international practice and policy, to develop a series of costed digital infrastructure proposals that complement the wider City Region Deal bid. These proposals would also identify alternative financing models including co-investments from industry for such digital investments.
- 3.9 Future Cities Catapult are well-placed to deliver this piece. They have insights into the Government's Industrial Growth strategy and the emerging thinking within the global digital sector. They also worked closely with Belfast City Council to develop the well-regarded Smart Belfast framework.

Communication and Engagement

- 3.10 Reports will be brought on an ongoing basis to each of the six Belfast City Region Councils. In addition, ongoing engagement will happen across the council through the already established joint city region deal councillors' engagement forum. The next meeting of this group will be held on 12th February to discuss the development of the process and the timelines outlined above. As at previous meetings it is recommended Party Group Leaders and the Chair of SP&R represent Belfast City Council at this event.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

Funding for the development of the programme will be financed through the City Deal specified reserve of £500K. Costs associated with the Digital Infrastructure proposals will be financed through this reserve.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that Party briefings be held in order to provide the Members with an opportunity to discuss with officers a number of issues in relation to the City Deal.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to –

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- **Agree that the New Crematorium is moved to Stage 3-Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of up to £18million to be allocated** (see section 3.3-3.7). Given there are a number of outstanding issues to be resolved (as laid out in 3.5 below) it is recommended that this is held at *Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk* and Members will be kept up to date on the progress of the project including the final budget allocation. 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 project is added as Stage 1 – Emerging Project - Belfast Zoo – Programme of works - with further detail to be brought back to Committee (Section 3.8-3.10)

Project Updates

- King George V Playing Fields (*currently Stage 2-Uncommitted*) – agree that this proposal is de-coupled from the Oval proposal and is now taken forward as a proposal in its own right. If agreed, Members are asked to note that further work is required in working this proposal up in its own right and that further detail will be brought back to Committee in due course (see 3.11-3.12)

Externally Delivered Initiatives

- Social Investment Fund – note that the Council has now received approval to proceed for the 6 SIF projects as outlined in 3.13 below
- Urban Villages – agree in principle that the Council acts as the delivery agent for a range of projects which are proposed under the next round of UV funding (see 3.14)

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

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

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

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

Project	Overview	Stage
New Crematorium	<p>The proposed development of a new two chapel crematorium (2 x 150 seat chapels) on Roselawn site with the re-use of the existing Crematorium building</p> <p>Maximum budget of up to £18million to be allocated - The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council</p> <p>Members are asked to note that this is a ring-fenced budget at this stage pending further work on the design and access and the final figures will be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>	<p>Move to Stage 3- Committed</p> <p>Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending further work on the design and access</p>
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works	<p>Members have previously agreed their ambitions and objectives for the Zoo and will be aware that a feasibility study on the longer term management options for the Zoo is currently underway. It is however recognised as part of this that the Zoo needs significant capital investment in order to make it a state of the art visitor attraction and this project is to develop up a costed programme of works for the Zoo</p>	<p>Add as an Emerging Project</p>

- 3.3 Move to Stage 3 – Committed**
New Crematorium – Members will be aware that the Council is responsible for providing cemetery and crematorium services for the people of Belfast and aims to: *‘ensure an adequate supply and effective management of burial land and to provide appropriate crematorium services that adequately meet the needs of the local catchment area’*. The existing crematorium at Roselawn was constructed in 1954 and designed to accommodate 700 services per year. However, in the year

ending 31 March 2016 a total of 3,255 services were performed which represents almost five times the designed capacity. At present it is the only crematorium in operation in NI and therefore providing cremation service to the entire population of NI. Members will be aware therefore that there is pressure in terms of the capacity of the crematorium facilities and that there is also no Plan B in place if the catafalque breaks down.

- 3.4 It has therefore long been recognised that significant investment is required in order to ensure continued operational efficiency and provide users with a dignified cremation service. The development of the new crematorium is currently a Stage 2- Uncommitted project on the Capital Programme and a detailed Economic Appraisal has been undertaken. A range of options were identified within the EA and these were considered in depth by the Council's Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group at its meeting in December. Following detailed consideration, the Working Group have recommended that the option of - a new two chapel crematorium (2 x 150 seat chapel) on Roselawn site with the re-use of the existing Crematorium building be recommended to the SP&R Committee in respect of the new crematorium facilities. This option emerged as preferred option in the EA as the options which not only demonstrated the best NPV when compared to the other options over a 30-year period but also the potential to provide the highest level of non-monetary benefit to the wider public and BCC staff.
- 3.5 Given the outcome of the EA and the recommendation on the preferred option by the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group it is recommended that the development of the new crematorium (*new two chapel crematorium (2 x 150 seat chapel) on Roselawn site with the re-use of the existing Crematorium building*) is now moved to the next stage on the Capital Programme – Stage 3 - Committed. Members will however appreciate that this is a significant project and that although the preferred option has been identified there is still a lot of work to be carried out including –
- *Design* - Further work on the design of the new facility including operational requirements
 - *Options for the re-use of the existing Crematorium* – Members are asked to note that the existing crematorium building is a Grade B2 listed building which is listed for both historic and architectural merit. Any proposed re-use of the building will therefore need to be sympathetic to the building's listed status.

Members are asked to note that no decisions have been taken in respect of the future use of the building and that Members will be kept up to date as these options develop

- **Access** – the proposed new Crematorium facility will require a new entrance creating a second entrance into the site. The A23 (the Ballygowan Road) on which Roselawn is situated is a protected route and discussions are therefore ongoing with Transport NI in respect of the access
- **Planning** – Members will appreciate that Roselawn sits outside the boundary of Belfast City Council and that the planning application for the new facility will therefore be assessed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. Discussions have already been held with senior officials from Lisburn and Castlereagh and these will continue over the coming months
- **Business modelling** - Further work on the business modelling in terms of the whole life costs and revenue implications
- **Use** - Discussions with neighbouring Councils in respect of a strategic approach to ensure a regional approach and the development of a facility which is future proofed in terms of future needs

3.6 **Given this it is proposed that this project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme but is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending further work on the issues above. It is also recommended that a maximum budget of up to £18m is ring-fenced for the project. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this budget allocation is within the overall affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to note that this is a ring-fenced allocation at this stage and following further work on the issues above the final budget will be brought back to Committee for further consideration along with updates on the issues above. Moving this to the next stage will allow the Council to appoint a design team and move to outline planning stage.**

3.7 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

3.8 **Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works** - As part of the discussion of the long-term future of Belfast Zoo, Elected Members have identified priorities for change that include:

- Enhancing the customer offer to generate additional revenue streams
- Building a reputation for providing a high-quality visitor experience which brings people back time and again as well as attracting new customers and increasing dwell time
- Providing assurance that the health and wellbeing of the animals is maintained at all times
- Providing strong education and conservation programmes
- Providing an ability to access external grants and potential for generating third party investment for improvements
- reducing the current Belfast City Council subsidy
- Contributing to the Belfast Agenda

3.9 Members will be aware that a feasibility study is currently underway on the options for the management of the Zoo. Committee will also be aware that there has been under-investment in the Zoo over the past years and as a result there is a need for significant investment if the Zoo is to become a state of the art visitor attraction and achieve the outcomes agreed by Members.

3.10 It is therefore **recommended that Belfast Zoo – Programme of works is added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1 – Emerging Programme. This will allow a full programme of capital works required for the Zoo to be worked up, costed and on this basis prioritised.** It is anticipated that this project will have two work streams:-

1. *Short-term* – eradicate immediate health and safety issues that will in-turn generate additional revenue opportunities for the Zoo including proposed works at the Lion/Tiger Enclosure; the Aviary and the Sea Lion Enclosure
2. *Medium to long-term* – this will follow the resolution of operator model considerations and the NFS proposals. In consideration of these it will be imperative that, in the long-run, a new Master Plan is required to address outdated buildings and infrastructure, changing animal care and guest needs including accessibility, and to ensure the Zoo continues to evolve and be an example of a modern Zoo.

Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision and that further updates will be brought back to Committee in due course.

Project Updates

- 3.11 **King George V Playing Fields** – Members will recall that the redevelopment of both the Ulidia Playing fields and King George V Playing Fields were moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme in May last year. At this stage, discussions between Glentoran and the Council in respect of King George V Playing Fields had been to develop the facility in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Oval which was due to receive funding from the Department for Communities under the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme. However, given the ongoing impasse at Stormont there have been no movements on this funding and this therefore means it is extremely unlikely that it will be possible to redevelop the Oval in the short to medium term.
- 3.12 Given the huge demand and lack of 3G pitch facilities in East Belfast there is a need to develop the KGV prior to the Oval redevelopment and as such it is **recommended to Committee that this proposal is de-coupled from the Oval proposal and is now taken forward as a proposal in its own right.**

Externally delivered initiatives

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

Social Investment Fund

- 3.13 Members will recall that the Council is proposed to be the delivery agent for a range of projects under the Social Investment Fund on behalf of the Executive Office. Members

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

are asked to note that the Council has now received approval to progress to the next stage for 6 SIF projects and that work on these will now be progressed. Council officers have been following up with all Groups.

Project	Description	Status
PIPs Suicide Prevention Ireland	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Joanmount Methodist Church	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Mount Merrion Parish Development Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Glenburn Methodist Church Community Outreach Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Mornington Community Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
South City Resource Centre (St. Simon's Church Hall)	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed

The Council is also continuing to work closely with the Executive Office and project promoters on the other projects under SIF for which the Council is the proposed delivery agent.

3.14 Urban Villages

Members will be aware through the AWGs that the Urban Villages Team is now looking at their next phase of capital investment and have a prioritised list of projects which are now going through business case assessment. Many of the proposed projects on the UV lists either align closely to ongoing Council initiatives or to projects already being funded or proposed for funding by the Council under other funding streams including LIF/BIF and the proposed Social Outcomes Fund and the Council is therefore working closely with the Urban Villages Team. In addition, the Council is proposed as the delivery agent for over 40 projects however the final number will be dependent on which projects are successful through the appraisal process. The Council is also having discussions with UV in relation to agreeing a level of management fee to deliver these projects.

Members are asked to agree that the Council continues to work closely with Urban Villages in respect of their next round of funding and that in principle that the Council acts as the delivery agent for projects. Members are further asked to agree that any necessary procurement processes for these projects (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.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – Costs for all projects have been agreed by Committee and through the three stage approval process which all physical projects are required to go through

New Crematorium – that a maximum budget of up to £18m is ring-fenced for this project. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. As outlined above Members are asked to note that this is a ring-fenced budget at this stage and that further updates will be brought back to Committee in due course

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

Equality or Good Relations Implications

No implications arising.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations:

- subject to the design option for the new crematorium being a 2 x 150 seat chapel or equivalent;
- to Party briefings being held in relation to the proposals for the new crematorium; and
- to a report on a potential master plan for the broader “Cavehill” area, including facilities such as the Cavehill, Belfast Zoo, the Belfast Castle and the North Foreshore, being submitted to a future meeting.

Building works in City Hall: January - June 2018

The Committee endorsed the scheduling of the various works in the City Hall during the period from January til June 2018 which included the following:

- (a) the male/female toilet swap in the East corridor being completed by Monday 29th January;
- (b) the new Disabled WC and the new Parenting/Family Room facilities in the East being ready for use by Monday 5th March;
- (c) the new integrated Reception facility being installed on the marble and ready for use by Monday 19th March;
- (d) the existing business-as-usual reception desk being removed by 23rd March; and

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

- (e) the new Changing Places WC facility in the entrance lobby being completed and operational by Monday 4th June.

Asset Management: Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members about works that are to take place by NI Water under its statutory powers as part of the Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to :

- Note that NI Water proposes to undertake sewer improvement works as part of an Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme and;
- Note that these works affect BCC car parks located at Little Victoria Avenue, Charlotte Street and Cromac Street, as well as BCC lands located at the Gasworks.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 NI Water is proposing to commence sewer improvement works under its statutory powers as part of an Ormeau Avenue Sewer Upgrade Scheme. Statutory Notices were served in 2013 on the Department for Regional Development [as the previous owners of the car parks] under the relevant legislation, the Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006.

3.2 The purpose of this scheme is to reduce spills from the Ormeau Avenue sewer system to the environment, reduce hydraulic and odour issues associated with the high levels of grease in the system and reduce the possibility of flooding in the catchment.

The scheme is to cost approx. £5m and involves the following works:

- Upgrading of existing sewer with a new large diameter sewer from Sandy Row to a new wastewater pumping station at Hardcastle St. This sewer will run in parallel to, and compliment, the existing sewer. The new sewer will be ‘tunnelled’ under Great Victoria Street and Dublin Road.
- A new overflow located at the junction of Cromac Square and East Bridge Street overflowing to a new

cross connection to the Belfast Sewer Tunnel at Cromac Street via Cromac Street car park.

- Relocation of the existing Ormeau Road overflow connecting to the Blackstaff culvert on Ormeau Avenue via Charlotte Street car park
- Construction of a new pumping station to pump flows to the existing sewer network in Cromac Street
- The pumping main will be 'tunnelled' under Ormeau Road.

- 3.3 A copy of the proposed scheme layout is attached at Appendix 1 (drawing number W-001).
- 3.4 There are 3 BCC off street car parks affected by the Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme, located at Little Victoria Street, Charlotte Street and Cromac Street. These car parks are shown hatched in red on the plan at Appendix 1. Part of the land located at the Gasworks Northern Fringe is also affected by the Scheme, also shown hatched in red on the plan at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 NI Water has recently appointed Dawson Wam to carry out the works on its behalf. NI Water advise that it is anticipated that work will commence in early February 2018 and will last for approximately 16 – 18 months. They also advise that there will be no road closures and that a traffic management plan has been agreed with TNI.
- 3.6 Little Victoria Street Car Park: A new proposed combined sewer will be located on part of this site (see map at Appendix 1). The location of the new sewer pipe has been kept to the edge of this site, as far as possible. NI Water has advised that it is not possible to locate this along the entire edge of this car park site, due to the hydraulics of the system (no sharp bends), the location of the Belfast Sewer exclusion zone and the area that is required for the tunnelling rig. In order to drive the piles and lay the new sewer pipe, large machinery is required, necessitating the closure of the car park (88 spaces) for a period of approximately 22 weeks from the beginning of February 2018. The surface of the car park will be reinstated by NI Water to an agreed specification at the end of the 22 week closure period.
- 3.7 Charlotte Street Car Park: A new proposed rising main is to be located on part of this site. This pipe will be directionally drilled underground with only inspection pits visible at ground level. The inspection pit will be approximately 10m X 10m and will be reinstated to original condition on completion. There will be no visible features at surface level on completion. NI Water have advised that the rising main could potentially

be relocated if future development takes place. An area of approx. 10m X 10m will be fenced off for the duration of the works, which is to last for approximately one week, envisaged for April 2018. A total of approx. 18 spaces will have to be closed off during these works with the remainder of the car park remaining open during this time.

- 3.8 Cromac Street Car Park:** A new proposed sewer is also to be located on part of this site. The narrowness of the carpark and the fact that there is only one entrance necessitates the closure of the entirety of this car park (104 spaces) for a period of approximately 4 weeks, envisaged in April 2018. NI Water has agreed that this car park will not be closed at the same time as the Little Victoria Street car park in an attempt to minimise disruption to city centre car park users. It should be noted that BCC does not own this land as Council occupies the site under a short term licence from NIHE.
- 3.9** Signage is to be erected at each car parks by NI Water to inform users about the car park closures.
- 3.10** A new rising main is also to be located within the grass verge along the Cromac Street frontage of the Council's Gasworks Northern Fringe lands. (See Appendix 1). NI Water has advised that the new rising main cannot be located in the carriageway due to existing services congestion. However, it will not impact upon development proposals for these lands.
- 3.11** NI Water requires access to the Gasworks Northern Fringe site for approx. 3 weeks envisaged in April 2018 to assist with the drilling works at the Charlotte Street car park lands. This land is currently not in operational use by the Council, although it forms part of the larger Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan that is currently being progressed.

It should be noted that the Belfast Sewer Tunnel is already situated underneath the car parks and the Gasworks Northern Fringe site and acts as an emergency storm run-off from the network. The Belfast Sewer Tunnel is to remain in situ after the completion of the Ormeau sewer scheme works.

- 3.12** In accordance with the statutory basis under which these works are being undertaken, compensation will be payable for any damage caused by or in consequence of the execution of the works. NI Water have also advised they will pay in full the estimated loss of income for the car parks on occupation of each site. It is NI Water's intention to make one lump sum payment of an agreed amount at the start of the contractor's occupation of each of the car parks.

3.13 Finance and Resource Implications

NI Water is to pay compensation in respect of the loss of income during the car park closures. The estimated loss of revenue for the car parks is as follows:

Little Victoria Street: £153,014.00
Cromac Street: £12,830.
Charlotte Street: £810

3.14 Any other compensation payable will be negotiated between Estates and NI Water (or LPS on their behalf) on completion of the works.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (i) Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1 - Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system; and
- (ii) Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by month extensions where contracts were under review as in Appendix 1, Table 2:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Design, Delivery and Management of the Twilight Market at St George' Market	Donal Durkin	1 year
Expert technical advice to support the design and implementation of corporate approach to Customer	Ronan Cregan	1 year

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

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Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Construction Services Frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework A – Collaborative Employer’s Agent and Project Manager Services • Framework C – Collaborative Cost Management and Quantity Surveying Services • Framework E – Collaborative Landscape Architectural Services 	Gerry Millar	Extend to 31 March 2019
Provision of an Advertising Service for the placement of Planning Notices	Keith Sutherland	Extend to 14 May 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise

Welfare Reform Support Project Funding DfC

The Committee was advised that, in preparation for the introduction and roll-out of Welfare Reform, the Department for Communities (DfC) had supported front-line advice organisations via grant-aid and capacity development. The Council currently administered an annual grant programme of £931,765 for generalist advice, with levered income via the DfC’s Community Support Programme, to five Advice Consortia covering east, north, south, west and central Belfast for generalist advice services.

At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee in December, it had been agreed to accept an additional in-year allocation of £61,103 from DfC through the Community Support Programme towards the provision of the City-Wide Tribunal Service.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that DfC was now seeking support from the Council to facilitate payment of £64,589.43 to Citizens Advice

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

for the provision of frontline services relating to welfare reform. The total funding allocation covered the following:

- Belfast Citizens Advice Adviser Salaries (6 Advisers): Total £44,234.94 for period 1 October, 2017 – 31 March, 2018;
- Hosting Costs: Total £11,349.74 for 2017/2018 year;
- Additional Welfare Reform Support: Total £5,404.75 for 2017/2018 year; and
- Training Package for 6 Welfare Reform Advisers at £600 each, total £3,600.00 for year 2017/2018

This additional allocation would be administered via the current Community Support Programme arrangements with DfC and a letter of variance would be issued.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request from the Department for Communities to administer funding for Welfare Reform support project to Citizens Advice through the current Community Support Programme arrangement pending receipt of the formal Letter of Variance.

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership Meeting – 8th January 2018

The Committee:

- Approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 8th January, 2018 which:
 - Noted the update on Peace IV and approved the rebid process and timetable as outlined in the minutes;
 - Agreed the recommendations in relation to the Review of the Shared City Partnership as outlined in the minutes;
 - Approved the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2018/19 for submission to The Executive Office;
 - Commissioned work to record and map the good relations outcomes that had been delivered by the DCGRP in 2017/18 at a cost of £10,000, which would include the establishment of a mechanism to measure long term attitudinal change which would demonstrate the impact of the work supported by the Good Relations Unit over a number of years;
 - Approved an additional £5,000 towards the research piece on Islamophobia in Belfast that had been approved by the Partnership at its meeting on 6th November, 2017
 - Approved an amount of £5,000 to TURAS to produce and launch a map of Belfast denoting the Irish place names for the associated townlands, together with the Irish Language sources of their names;
 - Awarded an amount of £1,000 towards an event in the City Hall (or another venue should the City Hall not be available) during Seachtain na Gaeilge which was held from 1st – 17th March every year;
 - Approved the hosting of the annual event to mark International Women's Day 2018 on 10th March 2018 and also agreed to the use of the City

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

Hall and cobbled area as a venue for the event for the next three years, until March 2020.

Operational Issues

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 11th January.

**Requests for the use of the City Hall
and the provision of hospitality**

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

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
Belfast City of Sanctuary	1st March 2018	Launch of 2 year strategy and AGM – Introduce and present Belfast City of Sanctuary’s intention is to make Belfast a welcome environment for refugees, asylum seekers and new communities. Numbers attending - 100	D	No (Voluntarily)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Red Cross	21st March 2018	Celebrate the Orientation Programme within Refugee Support– promote the work taking place and promote cultural dialogue with refugee population and city. Numbers attending - 70	D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Belfast Interface Project	26th March 2018	Launch of “Reality Changes Perception” Virtual Reality Software – reception to showcase new software to engage communities to look at how areas will look with no barriers, peace walls etc Numbers attending - 90	D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Lise McGreevy Photographic	13th April 2018	Abandoned: Not Forgotten – Exhibition commemorating the 20th anniversary The Good Friday Agreement. Numbers attending – up to 100	D	Normal charge would be £115 but cross community nature of event – waiver £115 and 1 in 3 event	No	Approve No charge No hospitality
Autism NI	14th April 2018	Making Sense of Autism - Family Fun Day – family entertainment, sensory challenges and interactive stands to assist in understanding Autism. Use of City Hall grounds required. Numbers attending – up to 200	D	No (Charity)	No	Approve No charge No hospitality
Royal Victoria Hospital	1st June 2018	50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner – Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner to celebrate 50 years of the cardiac unit. Numbers attending - 300	C & D	Yes £825	Yes – Wine Reception as 50th anniversary	Approve Charge £825 Yes – Wine Reception Illumination

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry	15th June 2018	Annual Lunch with guests from business, elected representatives and key influencers from across UK. Numbers attending - 400	B & D	Yes £300	No as commercial company	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Belfast Healthy Cities	2nd October 2018	WHO Healthy Cities Politicians dinner Major European 4 day Conference of 800 delegates linked to BCC/ VB Numbers attending – 150.	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception as BCC linkages	Approve No charge Wine Reception
St Brigids GAC	6th October 2018	20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner – Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner to celebrate 20 years of the club Numbers attending - 400	C & D	No (Voluntarily)	No	Approve No charge No hospitality
National Black Police Association	9th October 2018	Welcome Reception for delegates attending a 3 day conference in Titanic Belfast. Numbers attending – 250	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception as BCC linkages	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Willis Events and Ulster Rugby	29th November 2018	Chris Henry Testimonial Dinner – Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner to celebrate Chris playing for Ulster for 10 years Numbers attending - 400	B & C	Yes £825	No as commercial company	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Dynamic Conferences and Events	5th or 6th May 2019	Conference Gala Dinner for delegates attending the EMEA Regional Conference Numbers attending - 300	A & B	Yes £825	Yes - Wine Reception as VB linkages and international delegates	Approve Charge £825 Wine Reception

Minutes of Meeting of Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board of 11th December and 8th January.

ABF The Soldier's Charity (NI) - The 'Ulster at War' Concert

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from ABF The Soldier's Charity (NI) concerning an event entitled The 'Ulster at War' Concert to be held in the Belfast Waterfront on Saturday, 24th March, 2018.

The charity was seeking to recreate 1940s Ulster by means of music, comedy and fascinating stories of local heroism from every corner of the Province. The event would be hosted by 'Fermanagh Funny Man' Gary Wilson.

The Committee had previously booked places to attend events hosted by the Charity – in 2014 to 'The Great War Concert' and in 2016 to the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme concert. The cost of attending the event was £45 per person which could be met from existing budgets.

The Committee approved the attendance at the event of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees) and one representative of each of the four other main Political Parties on the Council.

Legal-Island Equality and Diversity Awards 2018

The Committee was advised that the Council had been shortlisted as a finalist in three categories of the 2018 Legal-Island Equality and Diversity awards in respect of the 'Best Disability Initiative'; 'Best Gender Initiative' and 'Best LGBT Initiative' categories and had been invited to attend this year's awards event which was scheduled to take place on the evening of 23 March, 2018 in Titanic Belfast.

The Committee was advised that the nominations followed an increase in activity in recent years to support and raise awareness of disability, gender and LGBT issues both externally and in the workplace. This was part of the Council's ongoing work to fulfil its Section 75 and other legislative duties, as well as to demonstrate civic leadership and best practice. The submissions were prepared and submitted by Corporate HR and the Equality and Diversity Unit.

The event organisers were inviting organisations to purchase a table of ten at a cost of £1200.

The Committee:

- agreed to the Council's attendance at the 2018 Legal-Island equality and diversity awards on 23rd March; and
- approved the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or their nominees), a chief officer; and three Council officers involved in the three awards

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 19th January, 2018**

submissions should it be possible to purchase six individual places at the event. Alternatively, if individual places could not be purchased, the Committee approved the purchase of one table of ten should this be the only available option and agreed to the four additional places being allocated to additional Committee members.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

**Report by the Environmental Audit Committee
into the impact of disposable coffee cups in the
United Kingdom**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McReynolds asked the Committee to consider the following motion:

“This Council welcomes the recent report by the Environmental Audit Committee into the impact of disposable coffee cups in the United Kingdom; acknowledges the impact they are having on the environment given that 2.5 billion are thrown away each year with many ending up in landfill; agrees to replace current coffee cups on council sites with compostable cups.”

The Committee agreed that a report on the replacement of current coffee cups on Council sites with compostable cups be submitted to a future meeting. It was agreed also that a report on the Council’s use of plastic materials be also submitted to the future meeting.

Chairperson

Extract from minutes of:-

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

20th October, 2017

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

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues”

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on proposals to recast the focus of the City Centre Social Outcomes Fund to support the city’s growing tourism infrastructure.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

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

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** Members will be aware that one of the ambitions laid out in the Belfast Agenda is to increase the number of tourists to the city along with the amount of tourism spend. This is supported by the vision which is laid out in the Council's Integrated Tourism Strategy, which was approved by Committee in May 2015, to *'welcome the world and share its history by creating a destination that the world wants to experience first-hand'* and which sets a challenging target of doubling the value of tourism by 2020. One of the other facets of the Belfast Agenda is to grow the city's economy and to increase the opportunities in the city for social economy and entrepreneurship. The substantial investment which is either currently underway or planned in tourism infrastructure across the city including the £100m Integrated Transport Hub which will act as the gateway access point for visitors arriving in the city, the proposed new cruise ship terminal at the Belfast Harbour, the growing number of hotels and the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) system provide the opportunity to act as catalysts for a range of social economy opportunities related to tourism including cafes, walking tours, cultural and tourism trails, craft and art opportunities etc.
- 3.2** The majority of tourism at the moment is concentrated in and around the immediate vicinity of the city centre given the concentration of tourism products including the Titanic Visitor Attraction and the City Hall and the easy accessibility of the city centre from the airport/train station and cruise ship docking point. Members will also be aware of the work currently underway on the development of a City Deal that a key component of this will be the creation of a new regionally significant tourism attraction in the city centre – the 'Belfast Story'. This will help to reinforce the attraction of the city centre in terms of visitor numbers.
- 3.3** However, Belfast's unique and rich story extends past the city centre and there is a need to ensure that the benefits of tourism growth are felt right across Belfast.
- 3.4** Members, through the Area Working Groups (AWGs), have already recognised the potential of local tourism and under the Local Investment Fund(LIF) and the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) a number of the AWG's have already prioritised investment in local tourism products for example the Eastside Visitor Centre in East and Faightle Feirste Thiar in the West. The AWGs have also regularly received presentations from community groups who have innovative ideas about ways to increase local tourism and this enthusiasm, new thinking and goodwill can now be built upon.
- 3.5** Members will also recall that the importance of local neighbourhoods in telling the rich story of Belfast has already

been recognised by Committee and is evidenced by the Committee approval in May 2017 for the delivery of this year's Tourism Plan which placed an emphasis on the development of community tourism. This outlined the aim of developing tourism infrastructure across the city, providing support to tourism related groups and enhancing the product offers. In August of this year Committee further agreed that the first stage of activity in respect of local tourism would be to prioritise work with partners in East and West Belfast with the introduction of the new BRT system.

- 3.6 Members back in September 2015 agreed the establishment of the £4m City Centre Social Outcomes Fund. However, as outlined above since this time the ambitions and the agenda of the Council have moved on with the finalisation of the Belfast Agenda and there is now an opportunity to re-align this fund to support in the first instance tourism initiatives and/or social economy initiatives which are developed to support the growing tourism infrastructure. It is also therefore proposed that its scope is extended beyond the boundary of the city centre.
- 3.7 Similar to the BIF/LIF it is proposed that this will be for capital projects only. All projects under this funding stream will be subject to going through the Council's three stage approval process for physical projects and will be subject to the same level of rigorous due-diligence as all LIF and BIF projects.
- 3.8 It is important for Members to also note that these projects funded under this stream will be more than just a capital investment. It is intended that the capital investment will act as a catalyst and that these projects will deliver wider social outcomes including employment opportunities and how we can work with partners to maximise these – e.g. the Department for Communities who are currently looking at neighbourhood tourism as the new basis for their regeneration activity under Neighbourhood Renewal. In addition, officers will work with the Groups to see how programming opportunities around these projects can be maximised – for example the development of tours, opportunities for co-events which will bring people across the city; opportunities for how these investments can enhance the work already underway on the Good Relations agenda, for example, bringing people to areas of the city they might not otherwise access.
- 3.9 Given this Members are asked to note that, if agreed, an outcomes framework will be developed and that this investment will also form part of the Council's contribution to the City Deal.

Projects proposals

- 3.10 As outlined above there has already been a range of work undertaken in respect of local tourism given the work to date

on the Integrated Tourism Strategy, the conversations around the Belfast Agenda and discussions and proposals which have been raised at the AWGs.

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

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

3.11 Table 1 Proposed projects

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

PROJECT	IMPACT AREA	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION
Buildings Conference Centre		Genealogical Research Space	Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £90,000
Sandy Row Community Forum	Transport Hub	Development of a Tourism Trail (with digital element) to complement the Transport Hub	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £80,000 <i>Potential match funding – UV</i>
Belfast Orange Hall Museum	West	Disability Access to Museum/ Renovation of frontage on the Cultural Corridor	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £80,000
James Connolly Interpretive Centre	West	Development of a dedicated interactive exhibition, study area, library of Connolly's writing and tourist facilities	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £1,000,000
Roddy McCorley Museum	West	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging with an indicative ringfenced allocation of £1,000,000

* See Map at Appendix 1

- 3.12 The Committee is asked to note that these are ‘in-principle’ recommendations only at this stage and do not constitute final investment decisions in any project. As with all projects these will be required to go through the Council’s three stage approval process and Committee will be kept up to date of their progress. All projects will be tested against the Council’s 4 ‘investment abilities’ – feasibility/affordability/deliverability and sustainability. Other areas/initiatives**
- 3.13 Members will appreciate that there is a need to ensure that the benefits of local tourism are felt across the city and the Committee is asked are asked to note that there are a number of other initiatives currently underway across the city which fall outside the prioritised area including –**

- North – Belfast Hills/Belfast Castle/Belfast Zoo/Cavehill Country Park and the north Foreshore (see Map at Appendix 1) – Members will be aware that it has been agreed to explore the future options in relation to Belfast Zoo. Work is also currently underway at looking at options for the ‘Old Zoo’ as well as the options for Belfast Castle. In addition, Members will be aware that the development briefs for the tourism/leisure uses at the North Foreshore have recently been returned and that there was a high level of interest in this and that these are currently being assessed. Council officers are also progressing discussions with the National Trust in respect of the Belfast Hills and how this significant natural asset can be fully utilised from a tourism perspective.
- South – Botanic Gardens (Tropical Ravine/Palm House)/Friar’s Bush/Lagan Corridor/Gatekeepers Cottage/Stranmillis Gateway – Members will be aware that the Tropical Ravine is currently undergoing a £4.2m redevelopment supported by Heritage Lottery funding and is due to re-open in February. Also, Members agreed last month that the Palm House was added to the Capital Programme and that conversations are initiated with HLF with the aim of carrying out a similar refurbishment on the Palm House. This could represent over £8m being invested in Botanic Gardens and will be a major step in restoring this park to its Victorian glory and creating a significant tourism and heritage offering. This is further supported by the historic Friar’s Bush Cemetery next door as well as the Ulster Museum and QUB. The South AWG also agreed to focus its attention on the Lagan as a significant tourism and leisure offering and commissioned the ‘Back to the River’ study as part of this. Works on the new £3.7m Stranmillis Gateway is due to commence early next year.

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

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

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

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

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

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

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

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

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

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

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

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 9th January, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

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

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Corr Johnston.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd January.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

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

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

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/19

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered a report, which had been prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources, in relation to the establishment of the District Rate and the compilation of the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure for the year 2018/2019.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

The Director outlined that the paper would not be subject to call-in as it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council and the public's interest in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2018.

He explained the cash limit for the People and Communities Committee for 2018/2019, as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 5th January, and outlined the next steps in the rate setting process leading to the setting of the district rate by Council at its meeting in February, 2018.

Following consideration, the Committee:

- agreed that the report would not be subject to call-in, given that it would cause an unreasonable delay and would be prejudicial to both the Council and the public's interests in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2017;
- agreed a cash limit for the People and Communities Committee for 2018/19 of £76,027,990 and the individual service cash limits; and
- noted the next steps in the rate setting process.

Request for the use of Ormeau Park

The Committee considered a request seeking authority for Belsonic to hold up to 10 concerts at Ormeau Park from the period 4th June to 6th July, 2018.

Following a query, the Assistant Director answered a number of questions in relation to noise disturbance and confirmed that all events would finish by 11.00 p.m.

The Committee approved the request, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

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

Presentation

Monika Kosinska - Focal Point in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe for Healthy Cities

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Kosinska, Focal Point in the World Health Organisation Europe for Healthy Cities and Ms. J. Devlin, Chief Executive, Belfast Healthy Cities, to the meeting.

Ms. Kosinska thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present. She commenced by advising that she was in Belfast for a site visit, as Belfast had been chosen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to host its Global Conference of Healthy Cities in 2018, from 1st – 4th October, in the Waterfront Hall. She advised that the WHO anticipated that over 1000 delegates from around the world would attend the conference.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

She informed the Members that the WHO had been established in 1948 as a UN specialized agency for health. She explained that 194 countries (Ministries of Health) collectively, together with WHO Secretariat, decide on global health priorities and actions to save lives and improve health. She advised that the WHO Headquarters was located in Geneva, with six regional offices and 151 country offices.

Ms. Kosinska explained that the WHO wished to address public health challenges and to strengthen health systems, as well as to provide assistance in emergency situations such as earthquakes, floods, wars and civil unrest.

The representative then provided the Members with an overview of The Healthy Cities Network. She advised that 1400 cities/165 million people were supported by National Cities networks in 30 countries. She informed the Committee that Healthy Cities worked in five year cycles and that the Phase VI Programmes (2014-2018) would continue to address health inequalities and challenges by building a healthy, equitable and sustainable future for all.

Ms. Devlin concluded by highlighting the important role that Belfast currently played within the Healthy Cities movement and she reiterated the importance of the forthcoming conference.

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

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Matters Referred Back from Council/ Motions

Motion - Housing Provision in Belfast

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd January, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Armitage and seconded by Councillor Nicholl, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes that, with the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan coming into reality, there will be a need for 66,000 new housing units by 2035. This will need an imaginative response by all, including the Council.

The Council calls upon all statutory bodies to review their land ownership and to determine if any such land is surplus and suitable for housing. Subject to legal requirements, the Council asks that consideration be given to making that land available to meet any identified housing needs and projected needs in terms of growth.

The Council is committed to a shared future and, therefore, is committed to shared housing. This shared housing should consist of community background, private and social housing.”

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Armitage outlined the Motion to the Committee. He stated that he was hopeful that the Council was committed to ensuring improved housing for all residents of Belfast which would include shared housing schemes.

A Member stated that it was his understanding that much of this work was already being undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan process. He also highlighted that if this work was to be progressed that the zoning and development of any surplus Council land also needed to be taken into consideration.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that other works were ongoing within the Council regarding housing provision in Belfast and city centre living and advised that an update report was on the agenda to be considered at the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting the following day. He suggested that, due to the potential overlap in respect of work which was already be progressed in relation to City Centre Living in terms of the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS), the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan, that he would liaise with the other Council departments to ensure that there was no duplication of work.

The Committee agreed that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would liaise with officers from both the City Centre Development and Property and Projects Departments to ensure that there was no duplication of work and submit a report to a future meeting.

Motion - Sustainable Food Policy for Belfast

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd January, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Councillor Spence, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“Given the number of cities which have developed a sustainable food policy, this Council agrees to develop such a policy for Belfast, looking in particular at the opportunities which such an initiative could offer, including the employability potential.”

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would include consideration of Food Banks.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Antisocial Behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces

(Mrs. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 Further to discussion at People and Communities Committee on 17 November 2017, Members requested that a report be submitted 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 a deterrent to vandalism; and
 - Look at the best practice of other local authorities and include potential budget options.
- 1.2 Members will recall that Council provides ongoing operational preventative measures, the purpose of which is to address anti-social behaviour, namely mobile CCTV and front line staff resource (Safer Neighbourhood Officers, Park Wardens and Alcohol Enforcement Officers). These measures continue to be provided with a focus on weekend evenings and school holidays when anti-social behaviour can be most challenging.
- 2.0 **Recommendations**
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to
- Consider the contents of the report and consider the recommendations.
- 3.0 **Background**
- 3.1 Members will recall that Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership commissioned a number of pieces of work in early 2017 with the aim of better understanding the emerging culture of large groups of young people gathering in parks/open spaces and moving around those spaces (transient young people).
- 3.2 The following work was undertaken:
- Consultation with 11 organisations across the city working with young people and those who have a knowledge or understanding of the issues surrounding 'transient youth'
 - Consultation with 450 young people over 4 weekends across two locations known for having issues with anti-social behaviour i.e. Lagan Walkway and Falls Park
 - Best practice review (local, national and international) on working with young people deemed at risk of getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour and/or deemed 'transient'.
- 3.3 The following learning has been gathered from this work:
- Many of the young people want to gather in this way with their friends and socialise without the parameters of structured youth provision
 - Young people say they feel safe socialising in this way

- Only a small number of the young people in any group are causing issues, however, the wider community are often intimidated by the size of the gatherings
- Whilst young people say they feel safe in these gatherings, there is evidence of their vulnerability to more serious offences e.g. drug dealers and sexual assault
- Drug and alcohol abuse is leading to the worst of the anti-social behaviour with contributory factors such as boredom or little for young people to do at the weekend
- Social media and the positive changes in the city in terms of ease of movement, make it easier for large gatherings of young people
- Diversionary activities are extremely limited in their long term impact and can actually geographically displace the issues. The focus needs to be on engaging young people in longer term developmental activities
- No youth work organisation can engage effectively with a young person who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The only focus at that point is harm reduction and keeping the young person safe
- The resource pressures on youth organisations trying to address these issues is having a detrimental impact on their ability to assist
- Parents need to be made aware of the impact of this behaviour on communities. This includes where young people are travelling from outside Belfast to participate in these gatherings
- Improvements need to be made in the partnership working required to address this issue to include; information sharing, operational co-ordination, communications and roles/responsibilities
- Raising awareness of the impact of these behaviours on communities should be done in as positive a way as possible so as not to demonise young people which would only serve to worsen the issues
- Youth ownership and empowerment in parks/open spaces is more likely to facilitate their positive engagement in the space
- The commissioning of youth based services should be outcome rather than output focussed.

Future context

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Members will also be aware that Council's convening role in community planning, the learning from the locality planning pilots,

other localised interventions and the emerging work being developed around 'area working' can provide a platform for a more integrated, holistic and sustainable approach to addressing concerns around the most challenging parks/open spaces.

- 3.6 It is important to consider that, whilst the park/open space may be the core area of concern, there are wider areas of influence around that core area that need to be considered. This is particularly important in ensuring wider community assets (physical and people) are given their place in the partnership response. It is important that any work we take forward in our parks and open spaces allow us to integrate those services that can demonstrate the potential to operate more effectively at a local level in the context of our change programme being undertaken through the City and Neighbourhood Services Department.
- 3.7 Members should also note that Council is not the only stakeholder in this discussion and whilst it is important that in the short term Council demonstrates leadership in integrating its services and investment around this issue and that the significant opportunities available through other partners and programmes of work are capitalised on. For example:
- PEACE IV is planning for significant capital and revenue investment in some key public spaces across the city with key objectives being children and young people and shared space.
 - Urban Villages has already committed and is planning for more capital and revenue investment designed to mobilise communities for positive civic stewardship, with some of the investment focussed on young people.
 - The Fresh Start Executive Action Plan and associated budgets provides an opportunity to commission services designed to prevent vulnerable young people becoming involved in paramilitary activity and examining the systemic issues contributing to this.
- 3.8 As part of any work that is being taken forward, we should also be mindful of wider programmes that are being delivered in the immediate vicinity of our parks and open spaces. Where there are current opportunities within current resources, the Council can play a lead role in working with partners, including community and voluntary sector and residents, to align what is already on offer in local areas.
- 3.9 As well as developing this approach in our parks, to further help achieve our goals identified in the Belfast Agenda, we are also availing of the opportunities that currently exist through current and planned capital and revenue investment in specific areas.

Members have approved that we develop this approach initially in the Springfield area, 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.

3.10 Officers are currently working up more details around this work and will come back to Members to further consider how this work can be developed in other areas across the city by aligning Council revenue and capital programmes and, where possible, partners' programmes to maximise opportunities and inform how we develop a coordinated area planning approach.

3.11 It is important to note that this will be resource intensive for the Council in terms of co-ordination and alignment of resources, therefore we must ensure that both this area planning work and the offer to address issues in parks and open spaces through integration and animation is resourced in a meaningful way and we do not dilute what is on offer because we try to cover all areas.

3.12 Recommendation

Taking all of the above in to account as well as developing the Council and wider response to these issues in a sustainable way but delivering meaningful outcomes for communities the following actions are recommended between January 2018 and December 2018.

3.13 Members are asked to consider prioritising a park in the East and West of the city to build this way of working as it will require both internal and external change. Additionally, this way of working will help inform structure and governance as the wider community planning and area working conversation develops with Elected Members and longer term approaches can be considered in this context.

3.14 Animation/Programming

- A year-long schedule of animation and programming to be developed to encourage positive use of the selected parks/open spaces.
- This would primarily but not exclusively focus on weekend evenings and school holidays in the first instance and would prioritise use of existing council assets in the parks/open spaces e.g. bowling pavilions or as close to the parks/open spaces as possible
- Council services to align in populating this schedule in the first instance (Community Services, Good Relations,

Community Safety, Sports Development, Parks Outreach etc)

- Local community and youth providers to be encouraged to populate the schedule with their existing programming
- Education Authority to be encouraged to populate the schedule with their existing programming
- Gaps in the schedule to be filled by further commissioning of services. That commissioning should focus on services that can demonstrate the ability to engage the young people in longer term developmental work

3.15 Operational Co-ordination

- Consultation with stakeholders to clarify roles/responsibilities and final clarification issued to wider group of stakeholders
- Commitment to effective inter-agency tasking and co-ordination needs to be secured at both a citywide/local level as well as reactionary/future proofing
- The existing East Belfast Youth Providers Forum to test how local and community youth organisations can support more effective tasking and co-ordination and how resources can be maximised
- Further development in the emerging Youth Providers Forum around Lenadoon to include the Falls Park and wider West Belfast area.
- Initiation of Youth Providers Forums in North Belfast and South Belfast

3.16 Awareness Raising

- Further development of partnerships with post primary schools across Belfast seeking co-operation with communication with parents and pupils regarding wider community impacts and risks of anti-social behaviour
- Inter-Agency correspondence on this issue to be issued through schools/youth groups to parents and pupils
- Engagement with organisations who advocate and lobby for young people in the development of messaging to maximise impact e.g. Children's Commissioner
- Further development of the emerging integrated community safety schools programme for consistent and clear messaging to young people. This programme is already in development through Belfast PCSP and is intended to be ready for roll out in 2018.

3.17 Strategic Horizon Scanning

- Mapping exercise of all strategic capital and revenue opportunities around the selected parks/open spaces to facilitate better alignment and maximise investment, using opportunities where there is similar work being undertaken as part of the development of our area planning model.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.18 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 consider this approach in a small number of parks/open spaces initially (potentially East and West) to allow for a focussed and meaningful approach in the first instance, with the intention of widening the approach at a future date.

3.19 Financial Resources

All of the above recommendations can be accommodated within existing Council and (D)PCSP revenue budgets. The recommendations are intended to maximise existing resources, reduce duplication and facilitate joined up decision making and resource allocation in the selected parks/open spaces.

3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis.”

A Member referred to ongoing antisocial behaviour at the location of the Lagan walkway and highlighted safety concerns given its close proximity to the river.

The Safer City Manager concurred and she advised the Member of ongoing interagency initiatives in the area.

A further Member referred to the ongoing antisocial behaviour at the Falls Park/City Cemetery and the cost of vandalism to the Council and he reiterated the need for parents and guardians of young people to know the whereabouts of their children.

Following a query regarding the opening hours of the Council's Community Centres, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that this was being considered within the context of the Change Programme and he undertook to keep the Committee updated.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

The Safer City Manager concluded by advising that the proposed initiative in the two selected areas would be in addition to the existing work currently undertaken at the Council's other parks and open spaces.

Following consideration, the Committee welcomed the proposed initiative and agreed:

- to prioritise the Falls Park/City Cemetery in the West of the City and the Avoniel/Orangefield corridor on the Connswater Greenway in the East of the City between the period January and December 2018. During this time the Council would attempt to develop a wider response to the many ongoing antisocial behavior issues by delivering meaningful outcomes for communities; and
- agreed to the recommendations, as set out in paragraphs 3.14, 3.15 and 3.6 of the report in relation to Animation/Programming, Operational Co-ordination and Awareness Raising;
- noted that this initiative would require both internal and external change;
- noted that it was anticipated that the approach would help inform both structure and governance as the wider community planning and area working works streams progressed;
- noted that, if successful, it would be the Council's intention to widen the approach to other parks and open spaces at a future date; and
- noted that the proposals would be accommodated within existing Council and (D) PCSP revenue budgets.

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

The Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 7th December, the following key items had been considered:

- update on the charity nomination process for the distribution of money received from the recycling of metals;
- update in respect of the increasing levels of funeral poverty and the initiatives being undertaken by local authorities elsewhere to help alleviate it;
- notification of the cessation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC);
- update in respect of the Permanent Memorial to mark PlotZ1 in the City Cemetery; and
- update in relation to the water infrastructure at Roselawn Cemetery issues with the water supply standpipes used by the public (for flowers and cleaning of headstones etc.) in Roselawn Cemetery.

A Member highlighted to the Committee the current problems being experienced with the water network at Roselawn Cemetery. He specifically referred to the 16 standpipes in sections R, S and T which were dry due to chronic leaks and airlocks and explained that members of the public now had no access to running water. The Member stressed the urgent

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

need for the required capital works to be progressed in order to ensure that the water supply was reinstated as soon as possible.

Another Member advised the Committee that he had been contacted by a constituent regarding the burial charge of £900.00 for a non-resident of the City versus £300.00 for a resident. The Member provided the Members with the specific details of an individual case and asked the Committee to consider a one-off reduction in this fee due to extenuating circumstances.

A Member advised that, whilst he had the deepest sympathy for the family involved, it was his understanding that this would contravene Council Policy and furthermore it might set a precedent.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services concurred that it was his understanding that this would be a breach of Council Policy.

The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 7th December 2017;
- agreed that officers would work to identify the capital expenditure from the Council's capital programme budget that was required to progress the urgent works to the water infrastructure at Roselawn Cemetery; and
- noted the request of a Member that sought the Committee's permission for the reduction of the burial fee by £600.00 of a non-resident of the City (as a result of extenuating circumstances) and agreed 'in principle' to investigate the request further, subject to a legal opinion being obtained.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Partner Agreements Quarterly Update

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

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites. She advised that, so far, the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites and she reported that full payments had been made to all the seven partners.

The Assistant Director also drew the Members' attention to details of an Assurance Review of Facilities Management Agreements and Partner Agreements that had been undertaken by the Audit Governance and Risk Services section in July 2017. She reported that, based on the audit opinion, officers were now seeking the Committee's permission to review the management and reporting arrangements for both types of Agreements to regularise standards and ensure that the appropriate levels of control were implemented in a timely fashion.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

The Committee:

- noted the quarterly progress to date at Partner Agreement sites; and
- approved a review of management and reporting arrangements for Partner Agreements and Facilities Management Agreements.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Everybody Active 2020

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise committee on delivery of Sport NI’s investment programme called Everybody Active 2020 Strand 4. Sport NI approved an amount of £183,018 for delivery of the programme in Belfast to the end of March 2018. This allowed Council to offer small grants in Belfast to support the existing Everybody Active participation programme currently being delivered by our range of preferred partners.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the significant level of uptake of this scheme which enhances participation opportunities in Belfast with specific focus on females, people with disabilities and people living in areas of high social need.**
- **Approve continued delivery of the Everybody Active Strand 4 programme by the Leisure Development Unit to 31 March 2020, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**

3.0 Main report

Sport NI programme

3.1 Sport NI has commissioned Belfast City Council, along with the other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Everybody Active 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions. Specific targets for each of the Strands of the Programme will be confirmed by Sport NI.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

- 3.2 Through Strand 4 of the Every Body Active Programme, Sport NI has offered Belfast City Council £183,018 with approximately £15,000 of this supporting a part time temporary grants assistant post. This programme allows Council to enhance the sustainability of participation alongside the existing Everybody Active Opportunities Programme which has been developed to support the objectives of the Belfast Agenda. Our existing Everybody Active Programme has specific targets which identify women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need as priority. Participation evidence highlights disparities and inequalities within those sectors. We have commissioned a blend of providers through a public process who are successfully developing and delivering programmes which prioritise participation for our target groups.**
- 3.3 Design of Belfast's Strand 4 programme has ensured complementary benefits linked to other investments including Belfast City Council's existing Support for Sport small grants. An anticipated programme titled EBA 2020 Strand 2 Workforce Development will further improve the outcomes within the Belfast Agenda. The small grants scheme has prioritised support to groups which can deliver programmes in support of our prioritised Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 programmes as listed below.**

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

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

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

Programme Delivery against Targets

- 3.5 As a result of an open call for applications which closed on Friday 17th November. A total of 67 applications were received and 65 of these were successful. These applications leave an under allocation of £32,982.**
- 3.6 The table below indicates the performance of the grant scheme against the Programme’s Key Performance Indicator targets as set by Sport NI.**

Key Performance Indicators	Target	Output (variance from target)
KPI 1 - Participants	6,269	8,145 (+1,876)
KPI 2 - Women and Girls	3,135	5,233 (+2,098)
KPI 3 - Participants from areas of High Social Need	1,881	4,715 (+4,527)
KPI 4 – People with a disability/long term illness	1,432	586 (-846)

- 3.7 Whilst application for the programme have significantly exceeded the target in the first three KPIs, applications have not achieved the target for participation by people with a disability/long term illness. The scheme will reopen with immediate effect with applications being sought specifically from groups demonstrating an ability to work with people with a disability/long term illness.**
- 3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

In the 2017 – 2018 financial year Sport NI has offered £183,018 for this scheme. Approved awards indicate an under allocation of £32,982. By reopening applications for groups which will increase participation for people with disabilities/lifelong illnesses, it is envisaged that this finance will be fully allocated by year end.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

Economic and Social Research Council - Open Call Project Proposal

The Assistant Director advised that officers were seeking Committee support for the Council to become a project partner and provide full support in an Economic and Social Research (ESRC) Open Call project proposal: ‘Beyond the (Peace) line: Re-defining the value of urban parks as socially inclusive spaces for Belfast’.

The officer reported that the project aimed to investigate how different people in Belfast used and valued the City’s formal parks, to identify likes and dislikes and establish what could be done in the future to improve the spaces. The project had been developed by the project lead Dr. Mell from the University of Manchester, in conjunction with a consortia of research partners including the University of Ulster.

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that, in June 2017, officers from the City and Neighborhood Services Department had met informally with Dr. Mell to signal the Council’s interest in becoming involved in the ESRC research project, pending a review of the detailed project proposal. She reported that the project proposal had since been reviewed and the benefits, implications and risks had been considered.

The Committee noted some of the potential benefits of the project, as follows:

- the provision of rich community baseline data to feed into City and local area planning;
- spatial analysis that could be used to identify areas of division as well as good practices in terms of engagement;
- inclusive social behavior to direct future development and management of planning/green space policy and practice; and
- linkages to the Peace IV Programme and the work carried out by the Smart Cities Team.

The officer advised that, as a project partner, the Council’s contribution would consist of indirect/in-kind support to the project over three years. It was estimated that Belfast City Council would contribute 30 – 40 hours of officer time over the 36 months of the project, by facilitating connections with the community and city stakeholders in Belfast, attending consultation events and public meetings to enable the project team engagement. She reported that, in return for the Council’s commitment, the lead partner would be willing to make some reciprocal contribution, that is, one-hour project/strategy support for every hour provided by Belfast City Council. In the interim, the project would require support from the

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

City and Neighbourhood Services Department, including senior management direction and the involvement of a lead park officer/manager to coordinate the work internally and externally with communities, with local knowledge and experience.

The Committee was advised that other project partners involved in the proposal and offering in-kind support included, Connswater Community Greenway representatives, the Belfast Partnership Boards (South and East), PLACE and Community Places.

Following a query from a Member, the Assistant Director confirmed that the project would be citywide.

The Committee approved the in-kind officer support commitment and agreed to the Council developing a letter of support to accompany the research proposal, subject to Council ratification.

**World Health Organisation Healthy Cities
Invitation to attend Event**

The Committee was advised that the Lord Mayor had been invited to attend the World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities Mayor's Summit which would take place in Copenhagen on 12th and 13th February but unfortunately the Lord Mayor was unable to attend.

The Committee agreed that, in the absence of the Lord Mayor attending, the Deputy Lord Mayor (or the Chairperson) be granted authority to attend the WHO European Healthy Cities Mayors' Summit, in Copenhagen, on 12th and 13th February.

Appointment of Public Analyst

The Committee approved the appointment of the following suitably qualified person as Public Analyst to the Council under Article 27(1) of the Food Safety Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1991:

- Lilian Emma Jane Downie MChem, MChemA, CChem, MRSC

**Request for the use of the Cathedral Gardens
for Christian Aid "Refugee Solidarity Sleep Out" Event**

The Director advised that a request had been received from Christian Aid seeking permission to use Cathedral Gardens from 12 noon on Friday 11th May til 12 noon on Saturday 12th May 2018. He explained that the event aimed to show solidarity with refugees across Europe and the Middle East who were forced to sleep out every night.

The Members were advised that this event would require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the site and would involve Christian Aid supporters erecting tents and sleeping out overnight on-site. In addition to the small camp, a larger tent would be erected. This would contain an exhibition highlighting Christian Aid's work with refugees in Lebanon, Iraq, Greece and Serbia.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

In addition, as this event was now held annually, the Committee was asked to consider granting approving for similar event requests from Christian Aid for the next three years.

The Committee approved the Christian Aid event at Cathedral Gardens from 12 noon on Friday 11th May to 12 noon on Saturday 12th May 2018, and for the subsequent three years, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans, the availability of the site and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser:

- meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety and licensing responsibilities; and
- consults with adjoining public bodies, the local community and the PSNI as necessary.

**Request for the use of Ormeau Park –
XMTB Spring Series 2018**

The Director advised that a request had been received from XMTB seeking permission to hold a series of Cross Country Mountain Bike events in the wooded area at Ormeau Park on 25th February, 4th and 25th March 2018 from 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. daily.

The Members were advised that XMTB was a Mountain Bike Racing Club which had been organising races for a number of years and had produced some of the most successful riders in Ireland.

The Committee approved the XMTB Spring Series at Ormeau Park on 25th February, 4th and 25th March 2018 and all subsequent annual “XMTB” Cross Country Mountain Bike events at this location, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser:

- resolves all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction;
- meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety and licensing responsibilities; and
- consults with adjoining public bodies and the local community as necessary.

Cregagh Green Peace Fields - Twinning Request

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from community representatives from the Cregagh area in East Belfast seeking approval to participate in the National Children’s Football Alliance (NCFA) Peace Fields Project.

The Director advised that the NCFA was a coalition of agencies and organisations that safeguarded and advanced the rights of children in football.

He explained that the Peace Fields Project (PFP) was an extension to the Heritage Lottery Funded 2014 Football and Peace Project that had been inspired by the Christmas Truces of 1914. He explained that it considered how a symbolic moment of First World War history could relate to the contemporary mission of the NCFA. A number of NCFA projects had engaged children and young people from vulnerable groups which had been outside the

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

radar of structured football and these had provided them with an opportunity to research their heritage in the First World War through the medium of sport. The PFP provided teachers with the opportunity to engage pupils in subjects across their school's curricular, using sport as a vehicle. It had also engaged local primary schools, families and members of the community who participated in research and activities. All participants pledged to twin their designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field, Messines, Belgium. The Director advised that it was anticipated that this commitment would help create a legacy for commemorating the First World War and celebrating peace through play on every anniversary.

The Committee noted that the proposal to designate the Cregagh Green as a Peace Field was at an early stage, however, it was anticipated that the project would involve significant numbers of local children and up to twenty local children travelling to Messines for the twinning ceremony.

The Committee agreed to support the proposal 'in principle' and granted authority for the sum of £1,500 to be allocated (from existing budgets) to support the costs associated with developing the initiative.

Pride of Place Competition 2017

The Committee was reminded that it had previously nominated four groups for the Pride of Place Awards, as follows:

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

The Director advised that the Gala Awards Ceremony had been held in the Mount Errigal Hotel in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 2nd December 2017 and reported that two of the nominations, Lower Oldpark Community Association and the Upper Springfield Youth Team had been awarded the overall winners in the respective categories. In addition, the judges had been impressed with the level of work, commitment and the standard of all of the Council's nominations.

The Committee welcomed the awards and noted the update provided.

Consultation Response - Forest Services' Proposal to Manage Ash Dieback Disease

The Committee was advised that the Forest Service was seeking views on its proposals to manage Ash Dieback Disease.

The Director of City and Neighborhood Services reminded the Committee that Ash Dieback had first been detected in Northern Ireland in 2012 on imported ash trees and since then, the Department had been closely monitoring for any presence of the disease. Despite the Department's best efforts to contain and eradicate the disease, it had been detected at

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 9th January, 2018**

widely dispersed locations across Northern Ireland. The Department had spent over £0.5 million locating and destroying infected trees but, as the disease was still spreading, it now considered that containment and eradication no longer to be a practicable option.

The Department was consulting on a change of approach to discontinue the issuing of Statutory Notices requiring the destruction of ash trees affected by the disease. In addition, it would no longer seek Protected Zone Status against Ash Dieback disease.

The Committee was asked to note that the Department was proposing that it would implement the following measures to assist the relevant stakeholders with the management of Ash Dieback:

1. provide guidance on Ash Dieback, available on the DAERA website [here](#) .
2. provide funding support for the removal of infected plants and replanting through the Forest Protection Scheme. The Forest Service would provide additional grant support to manage woodland affected by the disease;
3. promotion of the Tree Check app, available to download [here](#) .This would allow for the reporting of suspect tree pests and diseases to the Forest Service;
4. the retention of legislative controls on ash plants for planting under the Plant Health Amendment Order (NI) 2012; and
5. additional scientific research, on Ash Dieback and its environmental impact in Northern Ireland including research to identify trees that were tolerant to Ash Dieback.

The Committee agreed:

- to endorse the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Consultation on its proposal to manage Ash Dieback Disease and to support the discontinuation of issuing Statutory Plant Health Notices in favour of a voluntary approach; and
- to seek further guidance from the Department on the best practice management of ash trees woodlands where Ash Dieback had been confirmed.

Update in respect of Jubilee Gardens

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that benches in Jubilee Gardens were removed temporarily on 30 November 2017 in attempts to minimise the impact of high levels of anti-social behaviour in the area.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the background to that decision and the subsequent reinstatement of the benches.

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Background

- 3.1** Members will be aware that a number of city centre locations have had long standing issues with crime and anti-social behaviour, in particular on street drinking and criminal damage.
- 3.2** Jubilee Gardens has been impacted significantly by these issues in the last 12-18 months in addition to evidence of drug consumption, associated drug litter and public urination/defecation in the area.
- 3.3** These issues have been identified by Council Officers in the normal course of their daily duties, but there has also been regular contact from organisations in the area about the detrimental effect these issues are having on their users/clients.
- 3.4** PSNI had also raised concerns with Council regarding these issues in Jubilee Gardens and after a site visit with Council Officers a number of design out crime measures were identified, one of which was the temporary removal of the benches.
- 3.5** It was then arranged to have the benches temporarily removed to see if it would minimise the impact of the crime and anti-social behaviour taking place in the area and this took place on 30 November 2017.
- 3.6** Following concerns raised by some Elected Members about the decision and its potential impact on vulnerable people, particularly rough sleepers; a subsequent decision was taken to reinstate the benches and this took place on 14 December 2017.
- 3.7** Members may wish to note that Officers are working daily in the city centre with organisations supporting vulnerable people and at no point was Jubilee Gardens identified as an area where individuals were sleeping rough in the city. Following the concerns raised on social media with the removal of the benches, council officers consulted further with partner agencies, Belfast Chamber and Belfast City Centre Management who indicated their preference that the benches should not be replaced.
- 3.8** Members may wish to note that Officers have received one complaint about the instatement of the benches from an individual significantly affected by the issues. The complainant disagreed with the decision to reinstate the benches.

Partnership Working to Support Vulnerable People

- 3.9 Members may wish to note in recent years, highly effective partnership working has developed between a range of organisations operating in the city centre supporting vulnerable people including NIHE, Extern, Welcome Organisation, De Paul, Salvation Army etc. ‘Virtual Inter-Agency Teams’ are working together operationally on a daily basis sharing information on vulnerable individuals and attempting to encourage those people in to support services.
- 3.10 The inter-agency working has resulted in a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough in the city centre. The 2016 Street Needs Audit identified an average of 11 people sleeping rough compared to a recent update on that Audit in December 2017 which identified 5 people sleeping rough.
- 3.11 NIHE who have statutory responsibility for homelessness have stated publicly that there are services, accommodation and support for anyone who finds themselves homeless in Belfast. Support organisations continue on a daily basis in their attempts to encourage individuals to avail of the services available for them and to move to a place of safety. However, some individuals chose not to avail of that support.
- 3.12 Members will also be aware that Belfast City Council and Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership have participated proactively in recent years in efforts to support vulnerable people and reduce homelessness and this work continues. Some examples of this are:
- Following the tragic deaths of rough sleepers in the city centre, a number of Lord Mayor’s convened regular meetings with our city partners to give a priority focus to issues around homelessness.
 - A number of Lord Mayors have hosted a Christmas Dinner in City Hall for vulnerable and homeless individuals in the city, supported by NIHE and Council for the Homeless NI
 - Belfast PCSP provided funding to allow the Welcome Centre to provide extra outreach hours
 - Belfast PCSP part funds in partnership with the Public Health Agency a dual diagnosis addiction and mental health worker (Extern/Welcome Organisation) to assist vulnerable individuals in the city centre who have more complex needs

Environmental Improvements

- 3.13 Members may wish to note that the design out crime recommendations were being considered as part of wider options for environmental improvements to Jubilee Gardens. The purpose of considering these improvements is to encourage positive use and activity in this area as part of the Council's wider approach to open spaces in the city centre.
- 3.14 Options are currently being developed and will be brought to Members for future consideration along with financial implications.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.15 Costs associated with the removal and reinstatement of the benches in Jubilee Gardens were minimal and were covered from within existing City and Neighbourhood Services revenue budgets.
- 3.16 Any financial implications associated with options for environmental improvements at Jubilee Gardens will be presented to Members at a future meeting.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.17 There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis as environmental improvement options are further developed."

The Committee noted the update provided in respect of Jubilee Gardens and agreed that, where possible, future operational decisions which officers felt might have the potential to be of a sensitive or contentious nature should be submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 10th January, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey and L. Patterson;
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian,
Dudgeon, Graham, Hargey, Howard, Johnston,
Kyle, Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown,
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 6th and 12th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd January.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation

Translink – Weavers Cross

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. C. Conway, Chief Executive of Translink, was in attendance and he was welcomed to the meeting.

He explained to the Members that 'Weavers Cross' was an 8 hectare site linking a modern, high capacity transport hub with a mixed use development site. He outlined that it would become the main gateway for Belfast, with rail and bus connections to all parts of Northern Ireland, and the main rail and coach link to Dublin with direct connections to major airports.

He advised the Committee that the Transport Hub was now fully funded. He outlined that the project had been split into 2 planning applications and that the Transport Hub was currently going through the planning process so he would concentrate on providing an update on the wider development.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

He outlined to the Members that the wider development was going through a consultation process and that a Pre Application Notice (PAN) had been submitted. The Members were advised that procurement of construction was ongoing.

The Committee was advised that Translink would be working with the Council on a Construction employment academy to provide construction jobs throughout the build period.

In relation to consultation on the project, he advised that they had received feedback from Project Hope, amongst other organisations, on ways in which Translink could improve the consultation process and he outlined a number of consultation events which would take place across the City.

In response to a Member's question regarding the removal of the Boyne Bridge, Mr. Conway advised the Members that there was no feasible design which allowed them to carry out the required level of development in the Sandy Row area and retain the Boyne Bridge.

In response to further questions, Mr. Conway explained that it would be difficult to justify the creation of rail links between Belfast city centre and the Belfast International Airport and the George Best Belfast City Airport, in terms of cost and disruption to services, and added that frequent bus services currently covered those routes.

Mr. Conway confirmed to the Committee that the Arts Advisory Panel would look at ways in which the heritage of the area, including the lights, plaque and steel from the Harland and Wolff structures could be incorporated into the design of the site.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Conway for this presentation and he retired from the meeting.

Restricted Items

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of the items 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.

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/2019

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in connection with this item)

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

The Committee considered a report, which had been prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources, in relation to the establishment of the District Rate and the compilation of the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure for the year 2018/2019.

The Director outlined that the paper would not be subject to call-in as it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council and the public's interest in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2018.

He outlined to the Members that the main financial pressures facing the Council in 2018/2019 were uncontrollable costs but that the impact of those costs had been reduced by the increase in the rate base and efficiency savings.

He explained the cash limit for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2018/2019, as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 5th January, and outlined the next steps in the rate setting process leading to the setting of the district rate by Council at its meeting in February, 2018.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed a cash limit for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2018/19 of £16,036,980 and the individual service cash limits detailed in table 3 of the report; and
2. noted the next steps in the rate setting process.

Royal Avenue Site Update

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Committee with an overview of the work which was ongoing in relation to the Council's joint venture partnership with McAleer & Rushe (Bel Tel LLP) with regards to the former Belfast Telegraph site. She also provided the Members with information on the proposed programme, engagement and branding for the scheme.

After brief discussion, the Committee noted:

1. the progress to date on Bel Tel LLP; and
2. the proposed programme, engagement and branding for the scheme going forward.

City Centre Living

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Members with an update on the work which was ongoing in relation to City Centre Living in terms of the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS), the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan.

She explained the key learning points which had arisen from the City Centre Living Study visit to London from 12th-13th October, 2017, and the City Centre Living Workshop which had taken place on 23rd October, 2017. She outlined to the Members that this had prompted further work to take place on Living over the Shops (LOTS), and potential pilot

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

scheme to deliver city centre living principles, understanding the city centre residential market, use of the City Deal and invention opportunities.

During discussion, a Member requested that those residents who already lived in the city centre be invited to participate in the next Workshop.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report; and
2. agreed that a follow-up Workshop would be held with the involvement of residents from the city centre communities.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Employability and Skills Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update Members on progress on the key Employability & Skills workstreams
- Advise Members of the impacts of the work to date and the plans in place to achieve targets set out in the Belfast Agenda
- Note the intention to hold a workshop with Members in February 2018 to ensure Member input into priority activity on Employability and Skills for the coming year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the updates on the Employability and Skills workstreams and the impact of these interventions, including facilitating access to 735 jobs in the year to date
- Agree to hold a Committee Workshop on 21st February 2018 to ensure a collaborative approach to developing the future work programme for the coming year.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress against target on Council support for Employability and Skills

activity, focusing on how this aligns to Belfast Agenda priorities and targets.

3.2 The report includes details of key projects and investments and sets out how these will be developed in the short to medium-term. This is in line with the approach agreed by Members at the October 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. Current priority activities include Employment Academies in key employment growth sectors as well as career development and youth engagement activities.

3.3 The following jobs creation and participant targets have been established for the current financial year:

- Up to 1,500 residents will be supported to find a job. To date, more than 1,000 residents have entered employment (735 through ESF and Employment Academies and 313 through our entrepreneurship (including Go for It programme) and business development support);
- 4,000 residents will be engaged through employability interventions (e.g careers insight activities) and early engagement projects (with 2,928 people engaged to date);
- Over 1,000 students and young people to be engaged through career events and digital skills programmes (715 young people engaged to date)
- Over 290 work experience opportunities to be provided through the Council and key employers across the City (with 25 employers signed up to provide the 290 work experience opportunities to date).

3.4 Employment Academies Update

Members will be aware that the Council is delivering a range of Employment Academies across a range of employment growth sectors. These Academies are based on the learning from a number of pilot programmes undertaken in the previous financial year where 100 participants were supported and 60 found employment.

3.5 Employment Academies are a very flexible support intervention. They are designed in conjunction with employers to meet their specific needs. Typically, they involve a training intervention of up to two weeks, after which the employer will provide a guaranteed interview for an existing job.

- 3.6 Officers are currently engaged in an intensive programme of delivery, supporting Employment Academies across a number of sectors including Hotels/Hospitality; Construction; Social Care and Transportation. These Academies will run until June 2018. By that point, they will support the facilitation of at least 285 people into new jobs. Details of these Academies are set out below.
- 3.7 Hotel Employment Academy
- Members will be aware that Council Officers have been working closely with the HR teams from the Hastings Group and Dalata Group to provide candidates for more than 200 entry-level positions across their two new hotels which will open in the coming six months. 120 entry level jobs will be created in the period January-March 2018 in the Maldron Hotel which is scheduled to open in March 2018. Following this, the Grand Central Hotel will create 90 entry level jobs in the period May-June 2018 and the hotel will open in June 2018.
- 3.8 Both employers have been keen to ensure that significant effort is made to raise awareness of the employment opportunities across all of the City, and to work with the Council to consider how some of those furthest from the labour market can access the opportunities. As part of the programme delivery, a Stakeholder Engagement session took place in November 2017. This was attended by 42 organisations who work directly with those out of work across the city, including Jobs and Benefit Office (JBO) staff, European Social Fund (ESF) projects, training organisations etc. Those in attendance were made aware of the scale and spectrum of opportunities available as well as the timetable for training and recruitment.
- 3.9 In addition to the Stakeholder Engagement activity, Council officers, in partnership with staff from the Department for Communities (DfC) and the employers themselves, hosted community engagement sessions across the City. These took place in Conway Mill, Crumlin Road Gaol, Skainos Centre and Crescent Arts Centre. 221 people attended these drop-in local job roadshows.
- 3.10 Both hotels have also been willing to offer Job Insight Days. These provide interested applicants with a real life insight into the role so that they can decide whether they feel it would meet their interests and ambitions. The first Jobs Insight Day took place in early December 2017 and this was attended by 60 people. Further Insight Days have been set for January 2018.

3.11 Interviews are currently under way for the 2018 Academies and 160 people have taken part in these interviews to date, with additional interviews scheduled for January. The first series of Hotel Employment Academies will commence on 15 January 2018. All of those completing the Academy will be guaranteed an interview for a post with Dalata or Hastings. Interest in the Academies has come from all across the City. The breakdown of participants engaged to date is as follows:

- **20% are from North Belfast**
- **29% are from West Belfast**
- **19% are from South Belfast**
- **32% are from East Belfast**

3.12 In addition to the above, the Council has already delivered an Academy programme with the newly-opened Titanic Hotel. 12 people took part in the Hotel Employment Academy for this hotel and 10 successfully completed the programme and entered employment. Due to the location of this hotel, the vast majority of participants are from East Belfast. Given the success of the initial programme, it is planned that a number of additional Employment Academy Programmes will be held with the Titanic Hotel – and in partnership with DfC – in the New Year. At this point, the hotel has agreed to support a programme for up to 15 participants in late January 2018. All those participating in the Academy will be guaranteed an interview with the Titanic Hotel.

3.13 Given the success of the Hotel Employment Academies to date, there is now increasing interest and demand from the sector to look at how these Academies can be part of the solution for the range of new hotel openings and expansions that are expected in the coming year in particular. Employers are also keen to use the Academies as part of the recruitment for their existing facilities, given that there tends to be a significant degree of ‘churn’ within the industry. A meeting is planned with the Sector Skills body – People 1st – and the Northern Ireland Hotel Federation to plan the co-ordinated provision of Hotel Employment Academies across the hotel sector in Belfast moving forward.

3.14 Construction Employment Academy

The Construction Employment Academy was designed initially to meet the Social Clause requirements of Heron Bros. who were awarded the Leisure Transformation Programme contract for the redevelopment of Brook Activity Centre, Andersonstown Leisure Centre and the Robinson Centre.

The number of posts targeted for this Employment Academy is initially 14 jobs across a range of roles including plant operators, gate personnel and administrators. As was the case with the Hotel Employment Academy, Council Officers organised a Stakeholder Engagement event to promote the opportunities to training organisations across the City. 52 organisations attended the event. Officers also organised local job roadshows close to the vicinity of the developments – in Skainos Centre and Colin Glen Trust – with 45 people attending to find out about the employment opportunities. 21 people also took part in Job Insight Days at two of the Heron Bros. sites in order to gain an insight into the reality of the roles.

- 3.15 To date, there have been 56 registrations for the Construction Employment Academy which will commence on 8 January 2017. There are 30 places on this Academy and all participants completing the programme will be guaranteed an interview. Although the social clauses commitment is for 14 jobs, Heron Bros. have indicated that they will be willing to provide additional opportunities on other projects, should the candidates meet their requirements.
- 3.16 The postcode profile of those registering their interest in the Construction Academy to date broadly reflects the location of the opportunities. 33% of posts located in East Belfast and 66% located in West Belfast. The postcode profile of applicants is as follows:
- 18% from North Belfast;
 - 29% from West Belfast;
 - 32% from East Belfast;
 - 9% from South Belfast.
- 3.17 The Construction Academy model is flexible and can work not only on Council contracts but on any construction contract. Officers have been engaging with partners across a range of organisations including the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) to provide solutions for other major contracts. These include:
- Regular and structured engagement with Translink to deliver Construction Employment Academies aligned to the employment needs of the Belfast Transport Hub
 - Engagement with both Radius Housing and Clanmil Housing to agree Construction Employment Academies aligned to their Social Clause requirements across a range of developments such as the building of social housing at the Visteon site

- Engagement with Graham Bam Healthcare Partnership to agree a Construction Employment Academy aligned to their Buy Social requirements within the Royal Maternity development; and
- Engagement with Lagan Somague to outline how the Construction Employment Academy model can be utilised to meet their Social Clause requirements within the UU Belfast Campus development.

3.18 Health and Social Care Employment Academy

Officers have held a series of engagements with a range of domiciliary care providers in partnership with DfC to identify barriers to recruitment and agree the delivery of an Employment Academy to remove these barriers. One of the main barriers identified has been the need for applicants to have a driving licence. A number of employers have agreed to waive this as an essential criterion for the post and to progress potential candidates to interview with the caveat that, if they are successful in their application, they will be expected to secure their driving licence within an agreed timeframe in order to take up the offer. A funding package will be put in place to cover the costs, with contributions from the Council and the employer. Other employers have not set the driving licence as a pre-requisite for the jobs. A total of eight employers from the sector will take part in a jobs fair in w/c 15 January 2018. It is expected that there will be at least 35 job outcomes from this planned approach.

3.19 Public Transport Black Taxi Employment Academy

Members will be aware that, at the October meeting of this Committee, an update was provided on plans to develop an Employment Academy for Public Transport Black Taxis. Officers have now agreed the content and delivery process for this Employment Academy directly aligned to the employment needs of Belfast Taxis CIC, who have an immediate need to recruit 20 new drivers for their public transport routes across west and north Belfast. The company is also keen to upskill 6 current Black Taxi drivers as coach drivers to be able to expand their tourism offer to meet demand. In order to progress this programme, the Council will host a 'Meet the Employer' event on 23 January in An Chultúrlann where the employer will undertake preliminary interviews for the Employment Academy. Subject to satisfactory completion of the Academy, 26 participants will be offered positions with the company.

3.20 Based on the groundwork on this Academy model, Officers have also been working with the Shankill Public Transport Black Taxis company. While they are currently not in a position to take on any new drivers within the public transport element of their business, the company is engaging with Officers to develop and design a potential Employment Academy to expand the tourism element of their business. Working with the Tourism Team in the Department, Officers will ensure that the training reflects the skills required to improve the product development offer in the City, including customer care training and familiarisation with the tourism product offer across Belfast. It will also support delivery of the local tourism programme that was previously approved by this Committee.

3.21 Additional areas for development

Clearly there is an interest in the Employment Academy Model among employers across a range of sectors. The flexibility of the approach means that employers can develop the content to meet their needs, meaning that employees have the necessary skills to move into the company without the need for re-training. From the Council's perspective in ensuring that the interventions have a positive impact and that the opportunities for employment outcomes are maximised, this approach is also positive. As demonstrated above, the Academy programme provides participants with a much better chance of finding a job than the other models currently in the market.

3.22 While the early engagement around Employment Academies was undertaken in a planned and targeted way, focusing on hospitality employers in the first instance (given the planned growth in hotel development), it has become clear that the model is transferable and can be implemented across many sectors.

3.23 In addition to the planned engagement with the Hotels Federation, Officers are also engaging with major public sector employers (QUB, Translink etc.) to explore the feasibility of implementing Academy programmes for their upcoming vacancies. In order to consider how this approach can be escalated and resourced, Officers are currently working on a development plan for the coming financial year. This will be presented to the proposed February meeting of Committee (see 3.26), focusing on how the Council can add value to the current provision without creating confusion in a very cluttered marketplace.

3.24 Work Placement and Career Development Support

Members have previously noted the value of work placements in providing young people with an insight into a career. This was also one of the priority issues raised as part of the development work on the Employability and Skills Framework. The work experience will range from one week voluntary programmes for up to 250 young people to 4-6 weeks of paid employment in the summer of 2018. There may be opportunities to expand these numbers, based on additional engagement with employers and other partners.

3.25 In addition to the work placement activity, at least 2,000 post-primary students will receive additional careers guidance advice and support to help them develop a clear career pathway. As part of this support, there will be a focus on raising awareness of vocational pathways and self-employment, in line with the gaps and deficits identified as part of the Employability and Skills Framework and the Belfast Agenda. Officers will explore how this support can be delivered through formal school mechanisms as well as through other channels e.g. youth groups and community engagement activity.

3.26 Member engagement on future Employability and Skills activities

At the November 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members confirmed their continued support for the work on Employability and Skills and agreed the broad programme for the short, medium and long-term activities. They also confirmed their willingness to engage in the more detailed development process for this area of work. The first agreed step was to organise a workshop for Members early in 2018. It is proposed that this will take place in February 2018, as part of the additional meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (scheduled for 21 February at 5.15pm). This engagement 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 field. This engagement may also offer an opportunity to consider the wider programme of work for the Committee in the coming financial year, with a view to prioritising activities for inclusion in the City Growth and Regeneration Committee's Plan for the year.

3.27 Financial & Resource Implications

The budget for the Employment Academies and the Work Experience activities have been approved as part of this year's Departmental estimates process.

3.28 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The outreach and engagement activity has been designed to ensure that there are opportunities for participation by all groups."

During discussion, a Member requested that a legal opinion be sought on whether the Council could ring-fence training provision through its Employment Academies for Belfast residents only.

A further Member stated that the Council should support the case for young people undertaking apprenticeships being paid a fair and reasonable wage.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the updates on the Employability and Skills workstreams and the impact of the interventions, which had facilitated access to 735 jobs in the year to date;
2. agreed to hold a Committee Workshop on Wednesday, 21st February at 5.15pm to ensure a collaborative approach to developing the future work programme for the coming year;
3. agreed that a legal opinion be sought on whether the Council could ring-fence training provision through its Employment Academies for Belfast residents only; and
4. agreed that officers would support the case for young people on apprenticeships being paid a fair and reasonable wage.

Update on Council and Partner Support for Business Start-up and Growth

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of the Council and its partner organisations to increase entrepreneurship levels in the City and support new business start-up and growth.
- 1.2 The report outlines how these activities are delivering against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) identified in the Programme for Government (PfG), Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, the Belfast Agenda and the Employability

and Skills Framework 2016-2020. Primarily, these indicators relate to Job Creation and Business Productivity.

1.3 Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda four-year stretch goals to 2021 include the creation of 15,000 new jobs and supporting 4,000 new business start-ups. Supporting new business start-ups and indigenous business growth is a sustainable means to developing a sustainable local economy and promoting inclusive economic growth. In the year to date, the Council has directly helped 344 individuals consider starting their business and has provided 300 companies with business growth support. In total, 313 jobs have been created.

1.4 Following the transfer of some economic development powers as part of Local Government Reform (LGR) in April 2015, entrepreneurship activity is now a statutory function of the Council. As such, there is an additional responsibility on the Council not only to ensure that it invests resources to encourage start-ups but also that it convenes the work of partner organisations active in this field.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the work that is being undertaken by the Council and its partners to address the deficit around business start-up rates and to support indigenous companies to become more competitive and improve their productivity.
- Note that enterprise, business start and business growth activity has created 313 jobs to date this financial year. The breakdown of these jobs is 'Go for It' Programme 190 jobs, enterprise support for under-represented groups 6 jobs, Innovation Factory 85 jobs and 'Go Social' Programme for social entrepreneurs and co-operatives 32 jobs created).
- Note the performance for 'Start a Business' and 'Grow a Business', as summarised in the infographics in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.0 Main report

3.1 At the December 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, officials from Invest Northern Ireland provided an updated analysis of the performance of the Belfast economy. This included references to key growth sectors as well as areas in which the City's performance was

lagging behind. This included start-ups levels and business productivity. Some of the key messages include:

- **Levels of entrepreneurship:** Belfast continues to lag behind the NI average for early-stage entrepreneurial activity with a TEA (total entrepreneurial activity) rate of 4.4% compared to the NI average of 6.3%. Belfast ranks 9th out of the 11 Councils in terms of Total Entrepreneurial Activity;
- **Self-Employment rates:** the self-employment rate in Belfast is 6% of total employment. This is half the figure for Northern Ireland;
- **Rebalance the economy:** the City is too reliant on the public sector which accounts for around one third of all employment. There is a need to rebalance the economy by creating more private sector businesses and employment; and
- **Business Base:** the total number of VAT-registered businesses in Belfast is 9,015. This represents around 13% of the Northern Ireland total. 81% of those are micro businesses with up to nine employees. The majority of businesses (93%) are in the services sector.

3.2 To address these challenges, Council Officers have been working in partnership with Invest NI and other local economic development stakeholders to design and develop a range of programmes and initiatives to increase the levels of entrepreneurial activity, self-employment and business start-up across the city. There is a further suite of initiatives designed to support small businesses to scale up and grow, increasing employment opportunities and improving their competitiveness.

3.3 The Employability and Skills Framework for Belfast outlines the specifics of the employability and skills challenges for Belfast and identifies how a collaborative, outcomes-based, long-term approach could bring about a step change in employment rates and skills levels in the city. The framework recognises that entrepreneurship and business start activity offers another option for individuals to enter employment and delivers against one of the aims of the Framework, namely 'to develop a culture of entrepreneurship at all levels'.

3.4 Since the transfer of entrepreneurship and business start-up functions from Invest Northern Ireland in 2015, Officers have developed a pipeline of business support incorporating early-stage entrepreneurial activity (thinking about starting a business), business start-up initiatives, high growth support

for key sectors and interventions for existing businesses and social enterprises. This has enabled us to provide a continuum of support from initial business idea generation right through to supporting businesses when they are established and successfully trading.

- 3.5** The business start-up and business growth support landscape is a complex one. Our engagement with business has identified the need to simplify the messaging and provide better signposting across relevant services in order to meet the needs of the businesses as opposed to the targets of the individual support organisations. Taking account of this, Officers have worked with our Corporate Communications Team to develop a simplified messaging for would-be entrepreneurs, new businesses and growing businesses. This will use the banner 'Belfast: City for Business'. It will be launched across the City in January 2018 and will be supported by an overarching communications and marketing plan aimed at increasing further our level of engagement and support to participants and employers. This is in line with the Committee's ambition to promote more good news stories about the work that is being undertaken to support economic growth in the city.
- 3.6** In order to ensure that there is alignment of activity, Council Officers have established an Entrepreneurship and Business Growth Working Group. This is an informal advisory and co-ordination group that engages 30 stakeholders across the city with the aim of supporting the achievement of the city's strategic aspirations and economic priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda around business start-up and growth. The group has collectively agreed to progress with the development of an Enterprise Framework which will identify strategic longer-term interventions to address some of the barriers to enterprise and business start-up across the city and which will address the deficits set out above. The intention is that this Enterprise Framework will be ambitious in its aspirations, delivering on the Belfast Agenda commitment to making Belfast a great place to start and grow a business.
- 3.7** In order to provide Members with assurances around the level of investment and support for business start-up and growth, details of some of the Council and partner activity for the current financial year are set out below. In summary, the key activity plus the overall impact in terms of participation and job outcomes includes:

- **Enterprise outreach and engagement:** engagement of up to 300 people by April 2018 through a range of informal settings (youth groups, community groups, one to one interventions, enterprise awareness sessions) with a commitment to ensuring that 200 of these participants are from under-represented groups (including those with a disability, women, those from areas of disadvantage)
- **Starting a Business:** support provided to 331 individuals and organisations (particularly cooperatives) to set up a business. 228 jobs have been created to date through the start-up support. In addition, new interventions planned to start in new financial year to support start-ups with high growth potential. A target of 250 jobs over two years to be created. This new element of the programme will commence in March 2018.
- **Growing a Business:** at least 418 companies to be supported to improve their business competitiveness, develop new products and expand to new markets. 85 jobs already created to date through Innovation Factory.

3.8 Enterprise outreach and engagement

Belfast is home to residents of many differing backgrounds, cultures and abilities. Our enterprise outreach support recognises this, providing interventions to help those with greater barriers to starting a business. Through the Council's Equality Consultative and Migrant Forums, we are delivering a series of interventions to promote enterprise to a range of groups to enable them to explore the idea of starting their own business and support them to access further Council start-up support. Through all of this support we aim to engage with 300 individuals across the city by April 2018 of which at least 200 will be from under-represented groups.

- 3.9 To date a specific programme of support was developed to target refugees from the Syrian community who were interested in starting a business. This programme successfully engaged 20 individuals from the Syrian community supporting 2 to start a business which created 6 full-time jobs and 10 training roles, and helping 6 to access further training or employment opportunities.

3.10 Starting a Business

A range of support activities are available to help individuals to start a business. These include:

- **Belfast Enterprise Academy:** providing support for student entrepreneurs and start-ups. Last year (2016/17), 9 new businesses started trading as a result of the programme. 32 new student entrepreneurs have been engaged on the programme since September 2017 and they are currently receiving support from mentors to develop their business idea and test its viability – while they are still in full-time education.
- **Go For It:** This initiative provides individuals with advice and support to start a business through the development of a business plan. The new Programme was launched in September 2017 in partnership with the 10 other Councils. This initiative is being delivered by the Enterprise Northern Ireland Local Enterprise Agency Network. Since April 2017, the initiative has supported 265 individuals to develop a business plan supporting the creation of 190 jobs in Belfast.
- **City Start Up Programme:** this is a joint initiative with Derry City and Strabane District Council. It provides enhanced support to individuals who have accessed the Go For It programme and targets start-ups in the Fashion, Tourism, Food and Retail sectors. The programme has just launched and aims to engage 30 businesses in the Belfast City Council area, providing sector-specific mentoring and access to financial incentives to enable them to overcome barriers to starting their business.
- **Go Social:** this programme aims to help increase the number of new social enterprises and cooperatives in the City. This year, the programme has supported the development of 34 social enterprises and 10 cooperatives, 9 of which have already started trading and which have created 32 jobs. Officers are currently working on a proposal for a test-trading facility in the City Centre. This will be used by the social enterprises supported through the Go Social programme as well as participants on our other initiatives. It will be a facility to test their product and services in the local market.
- **High growth potential start-up support:** given the productivity challenges identified in the research, the Council has secured additional European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support to assist those businesses with high growth potential to achieve their business goals. Support will be available for up to 120 participants, creating a minimum of 250 jobs. This programme will commence in March 2018

- **Start-up World Cup support:** on 16 January 2018, the Northern Ireland qualifier event for the Start Up World Cup will take place in Belfast. This is a global event and it is the first time that a heat has been held in Northern Ireland. Other heats will take place in twenty global locations including Taiwan, Singapore, Australia and Egypt. Winners of this initiative can accelerate their ideas into reality with the help of \$1 million in funding and global recognition. The Council is supporting this event, in partnership with Belfast Global Shapers, Ulster University, Ormeau Baths and a number of other public and private sector partners. 10-5 local start-ups will pitch for a place in the grand final in San Francisco in May 2018.

3.11 Growing a Business

- **MassChallenge Belfast:** MassChallenge is a no-equity accelerator which started in Boston but now runs a network of global engagements. Programme participants receive mentor support, access to investment and are exposed to business networks that can provide them with the opportunity to achieve global growth ambitions. The Committee has previously agreed to support the participation of up to 10 local companies in a week-long programme, based in Boston. Planning work is currently under way but it is likely that this programme will be launched during the civic visit to Boston in February 2018.
- **SXSW 2018:** in partnership with Invest NI, Generator NI and Digital Catapult, the Council will provide the opportunity for local digital entrepreneurs to attend SXSW 2018 – the world’s largest music and digital convergence event. Participation by 6 local entrepreneurs will be supported by Council.
- **Immersive Lab:** Supported by Belfast City Council, the Department for the Economy (DfE), Innovate UK and Digital Catapult NI, the Immersive Lab gives organisations of all sizes the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the latest immersive technology enabling them to demonstrate, innovate and test their own business ideas and research. The lab is part of a number of Immersive labs across the UK with other locations including London, Brighton and Gateshead.
- **Innovation Factory:** The Innovation Director at Innovation Factory provides a range of business growth and innovation initiatives aimed at centre users and tenants. Current tenant occupancy is 27% representing 85 jobs and 29 business tenants. To date

support has been delivered to 85 businesses. Topics include new product development support, leadership development master-classes and support for business to business collaborations.

- **Access to procurement:** Delivered in partnership with InterTradelreland, this support enhances the capacity and opportunity for local small businesses to benefit from public sector procurement opportunities. Running for three years, the programme focuses on 3 areas of delivery; Introduction to Tendering sessions, 'Go-2-Tender' sessions and specific 'Supplier Engagement' or 'Meet the Buyer' events. In the year to date, 115 businesses have been supported through this activity.
- **Business Mentor Support:** this support aims to increase a business' growth and employment potential by providing one to one mentoring, networking sessions and seminars on a range of business-related topics. From 2017 to 2020, 533 participants will be supported, creating at least 269 new jobs. In this year to date, 80 participants have received support. In addition, hospitality and retail businesses can avail of additional customer service improvement support. At present, 15 businesses are in receipt of this support.
- **Export and international trade:** A specialist international prospecting service has been commissioned by Council. The contractor will undertake international prospecting for business clients, develop an export plan and support them to enter new markets. The contract is for 15 participants on average per year. The type of support is flexible to meet the bespoke needs of clients.

3.12 A full service evaluation will be commissioned in the coming financial year to measure impacts of enterprise, business start and growth activity in line with the targets in the Belfast Agenda including sales, productivity, etc.

3.13 Finance and Resource Implications

Financial support for all activities set out in the report has already been approved by this Committee, as part of the departmental estimates process.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Ulster University's Economic Policy Centre has undertaken an analysis of under-represented groups in entrepreneurship

and business start activity across Belfast. This has been used to inform Council investment. Marketing activity and support will be targeted to encourage increased participation by under-represented groups. Tailored support will be adopted, where possible, including interpretation and translation services and specific support for persons with a disability.”

In response to a request from a Member, the Committee agreed that Oxford Innovation Limited, as operator of the Innovation Factory, be invited to make a presentation to a future meeting.

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

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Inner North West Masterplan

The Director provided the Members with an update on the ongoing work on the Inner North West (INW) masterplan.

She outlined to the Committee that the Inner North West area of the city centre was experiencing significant change, mostly as a result of a number of approved and planned development opportunities in the wider area including the new Ulster University campus, potential redevelopment of the Central Library, private and public sector schemes, as well as the proposed redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph site.

She highlighted to the Members that the area was in need of significant investment to ensure that coherent proposals could come forward on the many vacant sites. The Committee was advised that the area needed to be developed comprehensively to ensure improved linkages and connections with other parts of the city centre and adjacent neighbourhoods.

The Members were advised that the INW Masterplan sought to provide a framework to help shape those opportunities and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development on both public and private sector owned land.

The Director outlined that the INW Masterplan sought to facilitate a new city centre mixed neighbourhood which:

- incorporated a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm;
- took into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain;
- reinstated the historically vibrant economy of the area;
- promoted ‘city centre living’;
- strengthened the city centre’s urban fabric and streetscapes;
- supported and strengthened pedestrian connections to the city and adjoining neighbourhoods;

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

- considered meanwhile uses to animate specific areas;
- delivered the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

She advised the Members of the engagement which had taken place to date on the Masterplan. She explained that the area involved multiple land owners, in both the public and private sectors, and pointed out that it had also seen planning appeals in recent times. As a result of the complexities she pointed out that officers had undertaken targeted pre-consultation engagement in September, 2017, which had informed the emerging masterplan. The Members were also advised that engagement with statutory partners continued to take place.

The Committee was reminded that a Workshop on the Masterplan had been held on 13th November, 2017, and that feedback from the session had been fed into the draft plan, particularly the development of an additional Character Area between Castle Street and College Street.

The Director explained that, during the formal 12-week consultation period, the Council would seek to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders in this area of the city, including residents, businesses, statutory partners and developers.

In response to a Member's question, the Director confirmed to the Committee that there would be proactive engagement with residents in the area.

The Committee agreed that a 12-week consultation be undertaken for the draft Inner North West masterplan, commencing in February.

Blackstaff Square

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report to seek agreement from Members to progress the Blackstaff Square public realm project under Phase 5 of the Belfast Streets Ahead (BSA) programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Agree that the Blackstaff Square Public realm project be taken forward under Phase 5 of the Belfast Streets Ahead programme, led by Department for Communities (DfC);
- Note DfC's intention to procure an Integrated Design Team for a BSA Phase 5 project;
- Note that the Council will work with DfC to ensure that project is designed and developed in such a manner that elements of the scheme can continue as a

standalone project outside the wider remit of the Streets Ahead 5 project, should full funding not be available;

- Note that this approach would mean that Phase 5 would be prioritised over Phase 2 (the area around City Hall) and Phase 4 (the area around Royal Exchange in the North East Quarter);
- Note DfC’s intention to maintain a priority focus on the delivery of Streets Ahead 3 as the priority public realm project pending confirmation of funding arrangements.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The Council’s Linen Quarter (LQ) Vision and Guidance approved on 1st June 2016 included proposals to enhance the arrival experience between the proposed Transport Hub and the city centre across Great Victoria Street and create a new, improved high quality public realm in Blackstaff Square, to serve as a positive gateway from the Transport Hub to the Central Business District and Linen Quarter.
- 3.2 In February 2017, Council agreed that as part of the promotion and development of the Linen Quarter that the City Centre Development Team should develop a Phase 1 public realm design scheme and project cost to RIBA Stage 3. The original proposed delivery model was a two-stage approach with the Council appointing a design team to develop the project to RIBA Stage 3 (including planning) and the scheme passing to DfC for the procurement of an Integrated Supply Team to deliver the construction phase. DfC subsequently sought advice from the Central Procurement Directorate on the proposed delivery model and was advised that having the one Integrated Design Team in place from start to end provides the best value for money in line with NI Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP).
- 3.3 Over the past months, teams in the Council and DfC have been exploring how best to take this forward in terms of procurement and also in light of other development activities in the vicinity, such as the proposed Transport Hub and new Belfast Grand Central Hotel. The boundary of the Blackstaff Square project initially proposed is shown in Appendix 1. However, with Translink developing the Weavers Cross Transport Hub at their Great Victoria Street/Glengall Street site, there is the potential that this could impact on the scope of the Blackstaff Square project. The Grand Central Hotel on Bedford Street at its junction with Franklin Street, which is also in close

proximity to Blackstaff Square is scheduled for completion in 2018, as is the Maldron Hotel which has a frontage on the Square and student housing on McClintock Street. It is therefore timely to review the scope of the Blackstaff Square project and the most effective approach to procuring a design team and securing capital funding.

- 3.4 In DfC's Public Realm Masterplan, Blackstaff Square was identified as a catalyst project, whilst the surrounding area (including Great Victoria Street, Bedford Street and Dublin Road) are integral parts of Phase 5 of the Belfast Streets Ahead (BSA) programme (See Appendix 2), which has the overall aim of improving connections with the principal railway and bus station.
- 3.5 Following discussion at a recent meeting of the BSA Public Realm Project Board which comprises of senior members from the Department of Infrastructure, DfC and BCC, the consensus was that, given the wider context, the Blackstaff Square improvements should be progressed under Phase 5 of the BSA programme. The Board considered that this option presents an opportunity for a more comprehensive/strategic approach to regenerating the public realm, taking account of the wider developments in the area. They also emphasised the importance of a joined-up approach to public realm improvements and connectivity around the Transport Hub and Blackstaff Square. This view is shared by Translink. There is clear justification for reviewing Blackstaff Square in terms of the timing of public realm improvements and DfC has indicated its willingness to re-prioritise the phasing of the SA programme to bring forward proposals.
- 3.6 The Council will work with DfC to ensure that proposals for Blackstaff Square are designed and developed in a way which would allow elements of the scheme to continue as a standalone project outside the wider remit of BSA 5, in the event that full funding does not become available. To this end we would commit to engage collaboratively with the Department to ensure successful delivery of the project objectives.
- 3.7 This approach would mean that Phase 5 would be prioritised over Phase 2 (the area around City Hall) and Phase 4 (the area around Royal Exchange in the North East Quarter). However, given the significant investment in this area, there would appear to be a convincing argument for accelerating Phase 5. In the past, such decisions have been made by the relevant Minister. In the current absence of a Minister, DfC will have to consider whether it is able to reach a decision. The Council's view of this matter, as one of

the main stakeholders, and as the locally elected body, is an important factor to be considered.

- 3.8 BSA Phase 3, in the vicinity of Ulster University, is DfC's current priority, but cannot progress at present, due to the current funding position. However, the delivery of the construction phase of the BSA Phase 3 project remains the next priority for the Department and consideration will be given to taking forward a new procurement exercise in the future, once sufficient funding to deliver the project has been confirmed

Timescale and Implementation

- 3.9 Subject to Council approval, DfC would move towards issuing tender documents for the appointment of an Integrated Design Team (IDT) by end February 2018. It is estimated that the earliest date by which the IDT could be appointed is August/September 2018. Timescales from appointment of the IDT to submission of planning application (including design, surveys and 12 week consultation period and reporting to Committee) is estimated as 12/14 months (i.e. by autumn 2019). Planning permission would be timetabled by spring 2020 with the contractor to undertake the works appointed and commencement on site expected in spring 2021. This would align with the construction programme for the Transport Hub. This is an indicative timeline of key milestones for BSA 5 which will be refined when the extent of the proposed project is established:

Capital Costs and Governance

- 3.10 It is intended that BSA 5 will be funded primarily by DfC subject to the necessary government approvals being obtained. The Council is currently preparing a Developer Contributions Framework that will set out the Council's approach to the negotiation of developer contributions as a means to mitigate and manage the impacts of new development on the City's infrastructure. The draft Framework is currently being finalised and following Party Briefings it is expected that the draft Framework, following Committee approvals will be published for a 12 week public consultation period from April 2018 as outlined in the report to Planning Committee in December 2017.
- 3.11 The BSA Public Realm Project Board, upon which the Council is represented, will be the governance model for project delivery.

4.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 Work will continue with the Planning Service on the contribution and utilisation of the existing Developer Contributions agreed with those schemes currently in the ground to the overall public realm in the area.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Belfast Rapid Transit

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

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. C. de Burca, Director for Transport Projects and Business Services in the Department for Infrastructure, Mr. C. Conway, Chief Executive of Translink, and Mr. S. Duffy, Belfast Taxi Group, were in attendance and had requested to speak to the Committee on the item. The Committee acceded to the requests and the Chairperson welcomed them to the meeting.

The Planning and Transport Officer advised the Committee that the Council had been requested to submit a response to the Department for Infrastructure’s proposal to make two Orders, which would revoke and replace existing bus lanes and introduce new lengths of bus lanes in the city centre, operating between 7.00am and 7.00pm, Monday to Saturday inclusive. She pointed out that, under the proposals, only buses, cycles, motorcycles, permitted taxis and certain specified vehicles would be permitted to use the specified bus lanes during those hours of operation.

She explained to the Committee that the following Motion had also been referred to the Committee by the Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, under Standing Order 13(f):

“This Council shall submit to the Department for Infrastructure a corporate response to the Consultation on Bus Lanes within Belfast, as follows:

The Belfast Rapid Transport (BRT) lanes should not operate from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday;

Operation hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday is sufficient for the operation of the BRT lane without general traffic;

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

Ordinary drivers and businesses in the area will suffer badly, funerals processions will be affected and taxi drivers will find it increasingly difficult to earn a decent wage;

All taxis should be allowed into all BRT routes and all bus lanes in Belfast on a permanent basis; and

The recent twelve-week trial allowing all taxis to use the lanes in East and West Belfast and in the City centre was a success and made a noticeable improvement to traffic on these routes and should now be introduced across Belfast in all lanes permanently.”

Mr. de Burca outlined that, under current proposals, the bus lanes would operate Monday – Saturday, 7am - 7pm, with a 2 hour loading window between 10am-12pm.

In relation to funeral corteges, which were alluded to within the Motion, he confirmed to the Committee that the Department would not prosecute a cortege moving between the church or house and the Cemetery. He clarified to the Committee that allowing private hire taxis into bus lanes would be a Ministerial decision and that civil servants could not implement a change in the legislation without Ministerial sign-off.

He confirmed to the Members that Public Hire taxis (Class B&C taxis) were allowed in the bus lanes at all times. He explained that a change to that policy would require Ministerial approval and that, without an Executive, the Department could not implement any change.

Mr. Duffy explained that he represented taxi drivers from across the city. He pointed out that a recent trial which allowed private hire taxis to use bus lanes in Belfast had been an overwhelming success, with customers having benefitted from cheaper fares and reaching their destinations quicker. He reported that taxis were able to use bus lanes in a number of cities across Great Britain and Ireland, including Manchester, Glasgow, Cork, Dublin and Cardiff. He emphasised that taxis provided a vital community service in the city, by taking people who were unable to use public transport to hospital appointments and to school. He explained to the Committee that taxi drivers would be severely disadvantaged if they were forced out of bus lanes for twelve hours, six days a week.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor O’Hara

This Council shall submit to the Department for Infrastructure a corporate response to the Consultation on Bus Lanes within Belfast, as follows:

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**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

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Ordinary drivers and businesses in the area will suffer badly, funerals processions will be affected and taxi drivers will find it increasingly difficult to earn a decent wage;

All taxis should be allowed into all BRT routes and all bus lanes in Belfast on a permanent basis; and

The recent twelve-week trial allowing all taxis to use the lanes in East and West Belfast and in the City centre was a success and made a noticeable improvement to traffic on these routes and should now be introduced across Belfast in all lanes permanently.

A Member questioned the necessity of the BRT lanes operating on a Saturday and asked whether the Department for Infrastructure could review the necessity of Belfast Rapid Transit lanes operating on Saturdays.

Mr. de Burca confirmed to the Members that an ongoing review would take place of the new BRT scheme as was standard with the implementation of any new system.

Mr. Conway added that, similar to a tram system, the Belfast Rapid Transit glider service needed priority lanes throughout city and, if they did not operate the lanes on Saturdays, Translink would likely be forced to operate regular buses on Saturdays, thereby cancelling the benefit from the £90million investment.

Amendment

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Cllr Dorrian,

The Council strongly supports the introduction of the Belfast Rapid Transit system as it is considered that it would greatly improve the quality of public transport in Belfast and could be a driver for regeneration as well as provide high quality access to and linkages between jobs, hospitals, schools and colleges in different parts of the city. An aim of the Council's Belfast Agenda is to develop "a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city. The agenda sets out a number of stretch goals including the target to increase the use of sustainable transport in the city by 15 per cent by 2021. It is considered that the implementation of the BRT scheme will contribute towards this goal.

The Council is supportive of the proposals for the Bus Lane Orders in the City Centre and Belfast Rapid Transit, East and West corridors with the exception of the proposal for Donegall Square East, to revoke and replace the existing bus lane. The Council has grave concerns about traffic congestion in the City centre, particularly at the back of City Hall, resulting

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

from the arrangement for the prohibition on vehicles (except buses and emergency services) going from the bus lane on Donegall Square East into Adelaide Street from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

The Council would request that the Department reconsider the Order to replace the existing bus lane in Donegall Square East and remove the prohibition on vehicles entering Adelaide Street from 7.00am to 7.00 pm.

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

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor O'Hara was put to the meeting.

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

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor Boyle,

That bus lanes should only operate 5 days per week, Monday - Friday, and that Transport NI should provide evidence for the necessity for bus lanes to operate on Saturdays.

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

The Chief Executive pointed out that, unless further proposals were put forward, the Committee therefore had no agreed response to the consultation.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee's response to the consultation is that all taxis should be permitted to use all bus lanes and BRT routes across the City.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Howard
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey

That the Council agrees with the DfI's proposals for the introduction of bus lanes which would operate Monday – Saturday, between 7am-7pm, and, after six months, that the Department should review the necessity of 12 hour bus lanes operating on Saturdays.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

At this point, a Member questioned whether the amendment was valid, as it combined two previous proposals which had already been considered by the Committee and lost. Other Members disagreed and stated that they believed it constituted a further proposal on the matter.

A Member requested legal advice on the issue. The Chief Executive advised that it was a matter of process and that a legal opinion would not help in this instance.

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

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

A Member requested that the further proposal regarding the days and hours of operation be considered by the Committee.

The Chairperson declared that the original proposal which had been carried was the Committee's response to the consultation.

A further Member added that there was no question over whether the original proposal had been carried, but that the further proposal should also be considered as it was not contrary to the decision which had just been taken.

The further proposal standing in the name of Councillor Howard and seconded by Alderman McGimpsey was thereupon put to the meeting.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for it and nine against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the following response be submitted to the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) consultation on the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) bus lanes as the Council's response, subject to ratification by the Council at its meeting on 1st February:

1. that the Council agrees that all taxis should have access to all bus lanes and BRT routes across the City; and
2. that the Council agrees with the DfI's proposals for the introduction of bus lanes which would operate Monday-Saturday, between 7am and 7pm, and, after six months, that the Department should review the necessity of 12 hour bus lanes operating on Saturdays.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in Belfast

The Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 13th April, 2016, it had agreed to provide financial support to a number of local organizations in order to

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

explore how the City's St. Patrick's Day and Orangefest celebrations could be developed and enhanced in order to attract additional visitors and spend.

He reminded the Members that, at its meeting on 11th October, 2017, the Committee had received a presentation on the emerging findings from Féile an Phobail and it was agreed that the final report would be brought back to a future meeting.

He advised the Members that the Executive summary was included within the report for Members' consideration and that the full report would be provided to any Member upon request.

The Committee considered the undernoted section of the report:

- “3.5 The report identifies the alignment with some key strategic documents from a range of local government and government partners. These include The Belfast Agenda and the Integrated Tourism Strategy. Its content was informed by a range of engagement and consultation events including 1-2-1 interviews, a community survey and a business survey.**
- 3.6 A series of benchmarks were identified and comparator research was undertaken to consider the organisational structure, tourism impact and cultural experience associated with the event in each of the five benchmark cities and towns. The comparator cities ranged from those with a global profile (New York, Chicago) to more local examples such as Birmingham and Downpatrick. These benchmarks collectively illustrate a significant economic return from their programming. Many are multi-day events, thereby maximising visitor spend.**
- 3.7 The report identifies a number of strategic priorities for future planning around St Patrick's Day events in Belfast, arising from the analysis. These are:**
- 1. Develop a reputation as a market-leading provider of an innovative and inclusive, community-led St Patrick's Day Festival. This involves expanding on the current offer to develop an event and a range of products that are capable of attracting significant numbers of local and international visitors and maximising the economic impact**
 - 2. Delivery of high quality, community-led events feeding into a unique and unrivalled celebration of St Patrick's Day in Belfast City Centre. This focuses on increasing support for locally-based celebration events which can feed into and support the main event in the City Centre**
 - 3. Provide a robust and highly effective management, partnership and governance structure to implement the ambitious festival plans. This suggests that, given the**

potential scale of the event, a collaborative planning and delivery structure will be required, involving representation from a range of tourism partners, community-based organisations, statutory partners and private sector representatives

4. Deploy a bespoke, innovative and culturally acceptable integrated marketing and communications strategy to match the event's high ambitions. Like all major events, this suggests that the proposed scale of activity needs to be supported by an effective marketing and communications plan in order to maximise its impact and the potential economic return.

3.8 This event concept is shaped by four underlying principles. These are:

- **Community-led:** the principle is that the event should be rooted in the community – therefore benefitting local residents – but with the commitment to showcasing the key activities in the City Centre
- **Commitment and integrity:** again, this points to the focus on a community-led product
- **Respectful and collaborative:** the event should complement cultural offering across Belfast and internationally
- **Quality:** the event needs to be world class, similar to other Belfast-based events.

3.9 The report identifies opportunities for audience development through a series of activities in the fields of sport, heritage, food, music and dance, art and drama and concerts and events.

3.10 In terms of governance and management, the report proposes the establishment of an overarching Steering Group comprising key public and private sector partners. The Steering Group would be supported by a series of working groups. The report proposes that the delivery of the main event would be commissioned to a third party organisation.

3.11 In summary, the report identifies the potential to re-position and enhance St Patrick's Day celebrations in the City. Its key findings include:

- **Opportunity for further development of the current City Centre event, focusing more on indigenous product including music, dance, sport and art**
- **Need to address ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour associated with the current event, with the potential to engage some of the young people currently involved in anti-social behaviour in the**

event itself. The report identifies the fact that there are a number of “hot-spots” where the anti-social behaviour is most visible and suggest that an enhanced and re-focused event could help address some of these issues

- Need to widen the event beyond the City Centre – but ensuring linkages between local events and the City Centre event. The report reflects comments from local communities about their interest in celebrating St Patrick’s Day within their local area. However, it is recognised that, in order to maximise the economic impact of the event and attract external audiences, a flagship City Centre event is required
- Need to invest resources in the event in order to maximise economic return. Not all of the benchmarks spent significant amounts on their event. However, the report notes that many cities were successful in leveraging investment from the private sector and other statutory partners. It concludes that, in some cases, this meant that the main event always took place on a weekend day in order to maximise opportunities for spend
- Opportunity to expand the event, focusing on a range of activities including sport, arts and music. The report notes that, while there is usually one main event in each city, many of the locations programme activity of a weekend or even a week in order to maximise impact and promote engagement
- Need for partnership approach to maximise investment and impact: based on models from other cities – and based on approaches to successful events and activities in Belfast – the report proposes the need for a partnership structure to increase available budgets and to ensure effective planning and delivery.

3.12 The budget requirement for an event of this nature has not been detailed in the report. There is an assumption that the Council would need to at least retain the current level of investment through the main event (£140,000 budget) and the St Patrick’s Day grant activity (£30,000) and there would also be a need for additional investment for other programme elements including youth outreach programmes, dance and music events, arts and drama events and marketing support. Potential funding sources have not been identified but it is expected that these would have to come from a number of statutory partners, and possibly from the private sector as well. The budget allocated in the benchmark cities ranges

significantly from £70,000 in Birmingham to more than €1million in Dublin.

- 3.13 Members will be aware that, at present, the main St Patrick's Day event is organised by the Council's City Events Team. This year, the event will comprise a parade that will start and finish at Writers' Square after traversing City Hall, followed by a concert that will run until 5pm. In addition to the main event, the Good Relations Unit administers a small grants scheme, allocating grants of up to £1,000 towards local events to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The total budget allocated to these events is £30,000.
- 3.14 Members will also be aware that a review of Festivals and Events is currently underway. This review will consider the current level of investment in Festivals and Events and the alignment with key drivers, including the Belfast Agenda. An update on work to date was presented to the November meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the final report will be presented to the Committee in February 2018. This report will take account of existing Festivals and Events activity including St Patrick's Day and will consider how the Council can invest its resources to ensure optimal return from such activities. Its recommendations will shape Council investment from the 2019/20 financial year onwards.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.15 The current St Patrick's Day event is delivered by the City Events Unit at a cost of £140,000. This funding is approved as part of the Council's annual events programme delivered by the City Events Unit. The Good Relations Unit provides grants of up to £1,000 towards local events to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The total budget allocated to these events is £30,000.

Equality and Good Relations Considerations

- 3.16 No specific equality or good relations implications associated with this report."

A Member pointed out that, as the Events and Festivals Strategy would be discussed at the Party Group Briefings in January, Féile an Phobail's report on St. Patrick's Day should be included within those briefings and that a report should be submitted to a future meeting on the findings by Féile an Phobail on the City's St Patrick's Day celebrations, within the context of the ongoing review of the Strategy.

The Member also suggested that, given that the Committee had heard from Féile an Phobail, that the Orangefest organisers be invited to attend a future meeting to provide the Committee with an update on the work which had been carried out to develop and promote the event.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 10th January, 2018**

After further discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the findings of Féile an Phobail on the City's St Patrick's Day celebrations, within the context of the ongoing review of the Events and Festivals strategy;
2. that Féile an Phobail's report on the City's St Patrick's Day celebrations be included in the Events and Festivals briefing which were taking place in the January Party Group briefings; and
3. that the Orangefest organisers be invited to a future meeting to present its findings on the development and promotion of Orangefest.

Creation of the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance

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 advise Members of correspondence received from Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI) regarding the creation of the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance. TNI have asked that Belfast City Council becomes a member of that Alliance at a cost of £2,000 per year.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Consider the request for Belfast City Council to become a member of the NI Tourism Alliance.**
- **Approve the contribution of £2,000 per annum for an initial period of 3 years.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Members will be aware of the growing importance of the tourism industry to Belfast and Northern Ireland. It is estimated that around 18,000 people are employed in the tourism and hospitality sector. The significant growth in hotel development – with an additional 1000 rooms becoming available in 2018 – will only serve to increase the employment potential of the sector.**
- 3.2 At present, hospitality accounts for around 5.2% of GDP. This is around half of the figure for comparative cities across the UK and this demonstrates the potential for additional development.**

- 3.3** Unlike other industry sectors, tourism and hospitality does not have a strong industry body to represent its interests to government and to provide a focal point for engagement with the sector. Taking account of this, Tourism NI has been working with a number of key representatives from the sector and agreement has been reached to establish the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance.
- 3.4** The purpose of the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance is to champion the tourism sector and its benefits to the regional economy, make the case for resources to be made available for the development and delivery of tourism growth, including the work of local government, and to advocate for positive policy change in areas such as VAT, Air Passenger Duty and Licencing Legislation.
- 3.5** A Steering Group established to explore the potential for creating an independent, private sector – led representative body for the tourism industry met in early December 2017. The group was facilitated by Tourism NI and chaired by Ellvena Graham, Chair of NI Chamber of Commerce and Chair of Belfast Waterfront Board.
- 3.6** The Steering Group agreed that it would be important to have all 11 Local Authorities engaged as members of the Alliance, given local government's role in delivering major visitors attractions, visitor servicing through Tourist Information Centres, regeneration and development of their local tourism industries. It was also recognised that given the scale of the contribution made by the local government sector that it should be afforded a seat at the Executive of the Alliance.
- 3.7** Currently seventeen organisations have agreed to commit to £5,000 per annum in membership fees to ensure the Alliance is suitably resourced to fulfil its objectives including Belfast Harbour, George Best Belfast City Airport, Belfast International Airport, British Airways, Aer Lingus, FlyBe, NI Hotels Federation, National Trust, National Museums NI, Titanic Belfast, Visit Belfast, Hospitality Ulster, Translink, Stena Line, ABTA, NI Federation of Passenger Transport and Food NI. Tourism NI will provide £30,000 support and will act as observers on the Alliance.
- 3.8** The Steering Group has proposed that each of the Councils could contribute £2,000 per annum towards the running costs and all Councils have been approached to provide this support.

- 3.9 It is considered that the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance will provide a useful vehicle for engagement with the industry. Likewise, it will help increase the profile of the industry to government and, in turn, help shine the spotlight on the economic potential of the sector. This is likely to lead to additional focus and resources being directed to support sector growth. Given the potential of the sector in Belfast, this will have a positive impact on the City.**

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.10 No specific equality or good relations implications.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.11 The contribution required from Belfast City Council is £2,000 per annum for three years initially and would be provided from existing Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts annual budget.”**

A Member requested that further information be submitted to a future meeting with further information on the governance and structure of the NI Tourism Alliance.

The Committee:

1. considered the request for Belfast City Council to become a member of the NI Tourism Alliance; and
2. agreed that a detailed report on the governance and structure of the NI Tourism Alliance be submitted to the next meeting for its consideration.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 24th January, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston and L. Patterson;
Councillors Beattie, Dudgeon, Graham, Hargey,
Kyle, Magee, Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Ms. L. Toland, Economic Development Manager; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Haire and McGimpsey and Councillors Boyle, Dorrian, Johnston and McAteer.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentations

The Economic Development Manager outlined to the Committee that Employability and Skills was a priority within the Belfast Agenda and was a commitment in line with the Employability and Skills Framework.

She highlighted to the Members that the Council had made a commitment to Inclusive Growth and that there was a need to establish a 'pathway' to ensure that individuals could progress and avail of the support which they needed.

The Committee was advised that youth outreach and engagement was crucial, and that while securing a job was not the reason for their participation in outreach activities, the programmes were used as a way of encouraging disenfranchised young people to think positively about their future.

She outlined to the Committee that, as a result, the Active Communities Network (ACN) and Sport Changes Life (SCL) had been established as pilot activities, each having received £100,000 from the Council to deliver such programmes. She advised the Members that, as the first year was coming to its conclusion, there was a need to review the impact and the lessons which had been learned from each programme in order that the Council could consider how value was added to a wider collaborative approach.

Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee
Wednesday, 24th January, 2018

Active Communities Network

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. J. Donnelly and Mr. M. Copeland, Active Communities Network (ACN), were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Donnelly provided the Committee with an overview of their work and described how the Network worked across the City, specifically within disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Copeland advised the Members that the Network's focus was to engage young people at risk and provide tailored support around their needs using their delivery methodology. He outlined that it worked with a broad range of community and youth delivery partners within local communities across Belfast, such as Hammer in the Shankill area, Alternatives in the Woodvale area, Charter NI in the inner east and the Ormeau Boxing Club in the inner south of the City.

In response to a Member's question regarding east Belfast, he advised the Committee that they worked in Tullycarnet and Dundonald, as well as the Newtownards Road and the Short Strand. He advised that he would provide information on any work which had taken place in the Cregagh area.

He also advised the Members that ACN had built up strategic relationships with companies such as British Telecom (BT) and Asda, where they worked in partnership to provide high quality placement and employment opportunities for local young people.

Mr. Donnelly provided the Committee with an overview of the Council-funded Employability and Skills project, which was targeted at enhancing the employability of young people, aged 16-21, who were not in Education, Employment or training (NEET). He advised the Members that they had supported 112 young people to deliver 6 Social Action projects within their communities, including volunteering and supporting charities, and that 56 young people had achieved 75 accredited qualifications linked to their preferred progression route.

He outlined that 32 young people had been supported into employment and an additional 11 young people had been supported into further education as a result of the project and he highlighted that capacity building for those young people was crucial.

The Committee was advised that ACN had secured £100,000 sponsorship from Lucozade which would enable them to continue their work, and that they had also recently been advised that their application for funding through the European Social Fund had been successful. He advised the Committee that he hoped to secure the necessary match funding in the near future to deliver the project across Belfast.

The Director of Development advised the Members that, as part of its Workshop on 21st February, the Committee would consider the outcomes from the pilot projects to determine the Council's youth employability and skills pathway.

Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee
Wednesday, 24th January, 2018

Mr. Donnelly advised the Members of the Committee that they were invited to attend the Network's Employability Celebration Evening on 20th February, at 6 p.m. in the City Hall, where they could hear more about the success stories from the young participants themselves.

In relation to the evaluation of the pilot project, Mr Donnelly advised that the University of Liverpool and Ulster University had been commissioned to analyse the outcomes and that early indications from the Ulster University had shown that they agreed with ACN's approach.

A Member congratulated the representatives from ACN on having secured private sector funding and requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting to provide the Committee with information on the wider, holistic support which ACN had provided through its pilot programme, in terms of providing support from the initial contact with a young person, through to attaining qualifications or employment, re-entering education or progressing within an organisation, particularly in the context of the City Deal.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

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

Sport Changes Life

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. G. Maguire, Sport Changes Life, was in attendance and he was welcomed to the meeting.

He provided the Committee with an outline of how Sport Changes Life (SCL) had been established. He explained to the Members that he was a former teacher and that he wanted to improve the lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds through sport. He described how he had incorporated his many contacts in the U.S.A who were involved in basketball and created the EHOOPS and Victory Scholar programmes.

He advised the Members that, while not all young people were interested in basketball or any sport, it was merely used as a hook to encourage young people to engage with the programme.

He outlined that SCL aimed to raise the aspirations of young people through sporting excellence, vocational and academic achievement and personal development. He explained that there was a 76% reduction in hate crime over the first three months of the EHOOPS programme, a 29% reduction in anti-social behaviour and 80% attendance at the EHOOPS programme.

In response to a Member's question about those young people who were not interested in sport, he explained that sport was only a small part of the programme and that it was also about encouraging the young people to have conversations about their future and ensuring that they had good mental health.

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee
Wednesday, 24th January, 2018**

In response to a Member's question regarding engaging young people in non-school settings, such as through youth groups and community work, he described how it was very difficult to connect with young people and build their trust and simultaneously push them into training or employment against their will.

He commended the Council on its Employability Academies.

In relation to a Member's question regarding how the pilot project would be evaluated, Mr. Maguire advised the Committee that the numbers would be appraised and that the Ulster University had created a pathfinder programme. He added that SCL only operated in areas where it would make a difference and that it had previously commenced a project in an area which, after a short while, it had become apparent that did not require assistance and that it moved on to another area instead.

After discussion, Mr. Maguire outlined the details of the successful Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Basketball Classic and explained that eight teams from the U.S.A. would be attending the 2018 event.

The Committee thanked Mr. Maguire for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 17th January, 2018

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard);
Alderman L. Patterson; and
Councillors Baker, Boyle, Campbell, Carson,
Clarke, Collins, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Hussey,
Hutchinson, McConville, McReynolds and Milne.

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

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported on behalf of Councillor Heading.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd January, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority

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

Applications for the Renewal of Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions – Ardoyne Working Men's Club/ Sliabh Dubh/The Corner House/Wolf and Whistle

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To consider applications for the renewal of Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licences where the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (NI) Order 1985 (the Order) within the previous five years.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented, you are required to consider the applications and to:

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

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

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

3.2 However, as each applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the Council, you are required to consider the following applications:

Premises and Location	Applicant	Application Type	Offence Details	Date of Conviction and Penalty
Ardoyne Working Men’s Club 9b Kerrera Street Belfast BT14 7FL	Mr. Brendan Mailey (Secretary)	Renewal	December, 2014 Entertainment being provided without a valid Entertainments Licence being in place	28th July, 2015 £200 and £66 Court costs

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 17th January, 2018**

<p>Sliabh Dubh 79 Whiterock Road Belfast BT12 7FW</p>	<p>Mr. Tony Clarke</p>	<p>Renewal</p>	<p>July, 2015 <u>Caulfield's Bar</u> Final exit locked shut and an obstructed means of escape</p>	<p>8th March, 2016 <u>Caulfield's Bar</u> £200 and £69 Court costs</p>
<p>The Corner House 167-177 Oldpark Road Belfast BT14</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Markey</p>	<p>Renewal</p>	<p>February, 2016 Entertainment being provided without a valid Entertainments Licence being in place</p>	<p>13th September, 2016 Conditional Discharge</p>

- 3.3 Notwithstanding the possibility of refusing an Entertainments Licence on any other grounds, the Council may refuse an application on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Order.**

Application History

- 3.4 Previous applications for the aforementioned premises were considered by the Committee as follows:**

Ardoyne Working Men's Club

- 3.5 This is the third time that an application for the premises has been considered by the Committee since the applicant was convicted on 28th July, 2015.**
- 3.6 The previous renewal applications were considered by the Committee, in relation to the conviction on 12th November, 2015 and 14th December, 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.**
- 3.7 Since the previous renewal application, the premises have been subject to one during performance inspection as well as the annual renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and management procedures were being implemented effectively.**

Wolf and Whistle

- 3.8 This is the second time that an application for the premises has been considered by the Committee since the applicant was convicted on 28th June, 2016.
- 3.9 The previous renewal application was considered by the Committee on 19th October, 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.
- 3.10 Since you last considered the application, the premises have been subject to three further during performance inspections as well as a renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and management procedures were being implemented effectively.

Sliabh Dubh

- 3.11 This is the second time that an application for the premises has been considered by the Committee since the applicant was convicted on 8th March, 2016.
- 3.12 The application is placed before the Committee because the applicant, Mr Tony Clarke, was convicted of offences under the Order at Belfast Magistrates' Court regarding Caulfield's Bar, another premises for which he is the licensee.
- 3.13 The previous renewal application was considered by the Committee on 21st September, 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.
- 3.14 Since you last considered the application, the premises have been subject to one further during performance inspection as well as a renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of these or any other safety issues and management procedures were being implemented effectively.

The Corner House

- 3.15 This is the second time an application for the premises has been considered by the Committee since the applicant was convicted on 13 September 2016.
- 3.16 The previous renewal application was considered by the Committee, in relation to the conviction, on 21 September 2016 and, after consideration, it agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.

3.17 Since the previous renewal application, the premises have been subject to three further during performance inspection as well as the annual renewal inspection.

3.18 On two of our inspections we found that no entertainment was taking place. The other inspection uncovered no further issues and management procedures were being implemented effectively.

Representations

3.19 Public notice of the applications has been placed and no written representations have been lodged as a result of the advertisements.

PSNI

3.20 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that it has no objections to the applications. A copy of its correspondences has been circulated to the Committee.

NIFRS

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

Applicants

3.22 The applicants and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to their applications. Copies of their respective application forms for the premises have been forwarded to Members.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of:

- Ardoyne Working Men's Club, 9b Kerrera Street;
- Sliabh Dubh, 79 Whiterock Road;

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 17th January, 2018**

- The Corner House, 167-177 Oldpark Road; and
- Wolf and Whistle, 67-71 Andersonstown Road.

Application for the Variation of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence – Love and Death Inc, 10a Ann Street

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received for the variation of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Love and Death Inc., based upon the Council's standard condition to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

He reported that entertainment was provided currently on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday till 1.00 a.m., on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday till 3.00 a.m. and on a Sunday till midnight, with approval to operate on three nights till 3.00 a.m. having been granted by the Committee on 7th December, 2010. The licensee had now applied to provide entertainment till 3.00 a.m. on the four remaining nights, primarily on the basis that he was investing in the premises and required the additional hours to sustain its viability.

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

He provided details of the eight inspections which had been undertaken since the Entertainments Licence had been renewed in 2016 and of those which had been carried out as part of the current application process and confirmed that all technical requirements and associated procedures had been found to be satisfactory. The premises would continue to be monitored to ensure that the applicant was complying with the Entertainments Licensing legislation. Finally, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had confirmed that it had, over the past year, received no complaints regarding noise nuisance from the premises.

The Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Love and Death Inc, 10a Ann Street, thereby permitting entertainment to take place till 3.00 a.m. the following morning on each night of the week.

Application for the Grant of Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences – South 13, Boucher Road

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the above-mentioned applications to enable officers to consider additional information which had come to light earlier in the day.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 16th January, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Dorrian,
Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston,
Magee, McAteer and Mullan.
- In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
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 McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd January, 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.

Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 12th December, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 9th January in respect of planning application LA04/2017/0046/F and 0044/DCA - 22 apartments with associated landscaping, access, car parking, construction of a new gable wall and all associated demolitions and site works at 140 and 142 Malone Avenue and the rear of 18 Windsor Avenue.

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 Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

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 2nd December, 2017 and 2nd January, 2018.

Departmental Performance Update

The Development Planning and Policy Manager tabled a report in relation to 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 31 December, 2017 as follows:

Planning Applications

- 131 applications had been validated in December, 2017;
- 223 applications had been validated in November, 2017; and
- 1865 applications had been validated since 1st April, 2017.

Planning Decisions

- 124 decisions had been issued in December, 2017;
- 201 decisions had been issued in November, 2017;
- 97% approval rate; and
- 95% decisions had been issued under delegated authority.

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 880 live applications were in the system at end of December, 2017; and
- 7 legacy applications were outstanding.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager highlighted that there were 29 live major planning applications, eight of which had been approved by Committee but were awaiting the execution of Section 76 agreements. He advised that eleven applications were currently within the 30-week target for processing applications and would be brought to the Committee for consideration in the future.

He pointed out that, in relation to Local Applications, the latest available figures from the Department for Infrastructure, up to November, 2017, indicated that the average processing time was 15.6 weeks, with 48% of applications being processed within the 15 week target.

He informed the Committee that, up to 31st December, 2017, the latest figures available from Department for Infrastructure showed that 67% of enforcement cases had been concluded within the target of 39 weeks, 3% below the statutory target, but this represented a 2% improvement on November's performance.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

He advised that performance would continue to be closely monitored and future reports would contain more detailed information in relation to factors affecting performance and continuous improvement measures.

Noted.

Request for Pre Determination Hearing for LA04/2017/2126/F - Lands bound by North Street Royal Avenue Rosemary Street and building south of Lower Garfield Street

The Development Planning and Policy Manager advised that a request had been received from Save CQ for the Committee to hold a discretionary pre determination hearing in accordance with Section 30(4) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011, in response to what they considered to be the controversial nature of the proposal, the sensitivity of this site (located within one Conservation area and adjacent to another) and the impact on the setting of a number of listed buildings.

He highlighted that an additional Committee meeting would be required should the Committee agree to hold a pre-determination hearing.

During discussion, one Member advised that he believed there were exceptional circumstances on the grounds that the application site was situated in the City Centre and incorporated a number of large buildings. He suggested that as the development included historic and listed buildings, and proposed demolition, the impact of the development would have wide public interest.

The Committee agreed to hold a pre-determination hearing and to defer formal consideration of the application until after the hearing had taken place. It agreed to receive representations from the objector and the applicant, limiting both deputations to ten minutes speaking time.

Miscellaneous Items

Restricted Item

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

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

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2018/19

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered a report, which had been prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources, in relation to the establishment of the District Rate and the compilation of the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure for the year 2018/2019.

The Director outlined that the decision should not be subject to call-in as it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council and the public's interest in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2018.

He outlined to the Members that the main financial pressures facing the Council in 2018/2019 were uncontrollable costs but that the impact of those costs had been reduced by the increase in the rate base and efficiency savings.

He explained the cash limit for the Planning Committee for 2018/2019, as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 5th January, and outlined the next steps in the rate setting process leading to the setting of the district rate by Council at its meeting in February, 2018.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed a cash limit for the Planning Committee for 2018/19 of £1,551,099 and the individual service cash limits detailed in table 3 of the report; and
2. noted the next steps in the rate setting process.

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.

During discussion, one member highlighted his disappointment in relation to the confirmed listing of 30 Malone Park. He reminded the Committee that it had agreed to reject the listing of this building at its meeting in September.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

After discussion, the Committee agreed with the Agency's proposals to list the following buildings:

- 1 College Park East, Belfast, BT7 1PS;
- 2 College Park East, Belfast, BT7 1PS;
- 3 College Park East, Belfast, BT7 1PS;
- 4 College Park East, Belfast, BT7 1PS;
- 5 College Park East, Belfast, BT7 1PS;
- 6 College Park East, Belfast, BT7 1PS;
- 8 Notting Hill, Belfast, BT9 5NS;
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 28 – 32 Annadale Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3JJ;
- Mechanical and Aerospace engineering, Ashby building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5AH; and
- Central Building adjacent to Stranmillis House, Stranmillis College, Belfast, BT9 5DY.

Retention and Disposal Schedule

The Committee was advised that Councils had been working together with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Public Records Office (PRONI) to agree a consistent approach to the retention and disposal of all planning records.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager advised that DfI required the agreement of each local authority as part of a standardised approach for all planning records.

He informed the Committee that the Council's Draft Retention and Disposal Schedule was outlined in Appendix 1 of the report (copy available [here](#)). He highlighted the following key changes from the Council's previous Retention and Disposal Schedule:

- The schedule had been updated to take account all types of planning records including electronic records and new types of planning records, for example Planning Performance Agreements, Section 76 agreements, Tree Preservation Orders and Discharge of Conditions. The Planning Registers would be retained permanently and Planning Applications would be retained for 6 years (after date of the last paper on the file);
- The time period for the retention of enforcement files was proposed as 1 year after closure. This retention period had been selected to ensure consistency with other legal requirements including the rehabilitation of Offenders Act and the Data Protection Act which stated that information should not be held any longer than was absolutely necessary; and

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

- For Development Planning, it was proposed to reduce the timescale from 10 to 6 years after file closure in relation to the retention of background records associated with all aspects of the preparation and publication of local development plans, from plan initiation through to plan adoption stages. It was considered that this time period linked appropriately with the legal requirement (Regulation 26 - The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015) that a council must carry out a review of its local development plan every five years and no later than five years from the date that the local policies plan had been first adopted or approved.

He highlighted that, if agreed, the Retention and Disposal Schedule would be presented to PRONI for endorsement before it could be implemented by the Council, however, this was subject to the Northern Ireland Assembly being restored as it must be laid before the Assembly for 10 working days before it could become operational. He advised that, as the schedule would also be applied to electronic records, policy processes would also have to be agreed with DfI on the disposal and retention of electronic records held on the planning portal, for which they were responsible.

The Committee agreed the Retention and Disposal Schedule as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that the following items had been withdrawn from the agenda:

- LA04/2016/0564/F - Additional waste types, and the installation of a metal shredder and associated conveyor belt systems at Avenue Recycling, 1 Advantage Way, Ballygomartin Road;
- LA04/2016/0563/F - Variation of conditions 3 and 7 of planning permission Z/2005/2312/F to allow for external unloading, transfer and storage of waste and increase to opening hours, additional 2 hours per day at Avenue Recycling, 1 Advantage Way; and
- LA04/2016/2018/F - 7 storey residential development comprising 46 apartments with associated basement level car parking with 25 parking spaces, amenity space, associated site works and alterations to the junction of Hamill Street and College Square North on lands adjacent to 14 College square North and South of 62-76 Hamill Street.

Planning Applications

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

Reconsidered Item – LA04/2017/0046/F and 0044/DCA 22 apartments with associated landscaping, access, car parking, construction of new gable wall and all associated demolitions and site works at 140 and 142 Malone Avenue and the rear of 18 Windsor Avenue

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Carson and Dorrian took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 12th December when it had originally been considered).

The Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received on behalf of Mr. C. Doyle, an objector, citing exceptional circumstances, as outlined in the Late Items reports pack. He reminded the Committee that the objectors had already made a presentation at the Committee Meeting on 12th December. The Committee agreed not to receive the deputation.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th December, given the issues which had been raised regarding the Malone Conservation Area, the height of the proposal and impact on local residents, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The case officer provided an overview of the addendum report and highlighted that a further two letters of objection had been received in relation to inadequate infrastructure and townscape character of the area.

In response to the issues raised by the objector in the exceptional circumstances request, the case officer explained that planning permission under Z/2007/2006/F had been granted for a replacement church and permission remained extant. She also confirmed that the planning history of the site had been fully considered.

After discussion, 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.

(Councillors Carson and Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point.)

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

LA04/2016/2099/F - Residential development consisting of 12 apartments and 36 houses (total 48 units) with associated vehicular / pedestrian accesses, car parking, landscaping and site works at former site of St. Marks Primary School, Gardenmore Road, Twinbrook, Dunmurry

The Case Officer outlined the aforementioned application.

She highlighted that, in terms of infrastructure, whilst there is an outstanding final consultation response from Transport NI, the consultee had raised no issues of principle and it was considered that any technical matters could be appropriately addressed by conditions.

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.

(Alderman McGimpsey returned to the Committee table at this point.)

LA04/2017/0919/F - Sports Dome with internal lighting, machine room and 3M security fence at Colin Park, 115 Blacks Road

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.

During discussion, Members raised questions in relation to the consultation which had taken place and the impact the development would have on the residents of the area.

The Committee received representation from Ms. U. Somerville and Mr. C. O'Neill, representing the applicant. In answer to Members' questions, they explained that visual impact analysis had taken place and a range of organisations had been consulted in relation to the proposal, such as Suffolk Football Club and the Suffolk Community Forum. Mr. O'Neill also suggested that further public consultation had taken place on the previous application for the site and they would be happy to continue to engage with the community.

During points of clarification, the case officer confirmed that the facility would be managed as part of the wider development of the site.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/2306/F - Purpose built managed student accommodation comprising up to 430 beds with internal and external communal area at 26 - 44 Little Patrick Street

The case officer explained that the principle of purpose built student accommodation was considered acceptable at this location and the site had extant

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

planning permission for an eleven storey purpose built student accommodation building, comprising of 354 beds under LA04/2015/0716/F.

He explained that the proposal was for the re-development of a vacant site with the erection of a 12 Storey building (35-36m) for managed student accommodation, comprising 430 beds with internal and external communal areas and other ancillary accommodation including a reception/management suite, plants and storage areas and cycle provision.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to overdevelopment of the site, over clustering and supply of student managed accommodation, lack of amenity space and open space, lack of car parking and the design of the development.

The Committee received representation from Ms. E. Walker, representing the applicant. In response to Members' concerns, she outlined a range of support for the proposal which included:

- the principle for student managed accommodation had already been established;
- since the previous planning approval, the site had been sold on to a different developer who had reconsidered the design configuration due to the demand for more cluster bedrooms;
- the key differences from the previous proposal were the mix of studio apartments and cluster bedrooms, a small increase in the number of bedrooms, and more amenity space;
- the proposed room sizes were a minimum of 13sqm and compliant with space standards;
- a Section 76 agreement had been discussed with the Planning Service;
- the applicant had engaged with the community; and
- there had been no statutory objections.

During points of clarification, Ms. Walker explained the basis for the demand for cluster bedrooms and the reduction in ceiling heights. She indicated that the design included social space on the ground level and open space. She stated that consultation had been undertaken as part of the PAD process.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager advised that the need for Student Managed Accommodation in this area was indicative and comparable to other cities, but he would endeavour to bring back actual statistics to demonstrate the cumulative impact of the proposals in the area.

The recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when six Members voted in favour and six against. There being a parity of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the application and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any planning agreements which might be realised at the site.

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

LA04/2017/0510/RM - Residential development of 23 detached and 104 semi-detached dwellings and 3 town houses (total 130), access and road infrastructure, landscaping and public open space to include an equipped children's play area on lands at Castlehill south of Woodcroft Heights and east of Glenview Avenue and Castlegrange Belfast

The case officer outlined the application for the residential development.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Armitage and
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding road safety, agrees to defer consideration of the application to permit a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

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

The recommendation to approve the application was then put to the Committee and the Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/1470/F - Single storey rear extension, 2nd storey rear extension, elevation changes and replacement dormer window to rear at 118 Stranmillis Road

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the applicant was a member of Council.

During discussion, one Member questioned the failure to apply guidance standards in relation to overshadowing and dominance as outlined in the case officer's report under paragraph 6.7 and 6.8. The case officer advised that, in relation to the angle test referred to in the report, guidance stated that this was not a rigid standard that must be met in every case; rather it was an assessment tool that would be used in conjunction with other relevant factors. She confirmed that an assessment had been made on the cumulative impact of the proposal on the neighbouring properties.

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

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

LA04/2017/1762/F - Change of use from first and second floor offices to 2 flats including 2.5 storey rear extension, replacement single storey bays and elevation changes at 1 Rugby Avenue

The case officer outlined the application and informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, a late objection had been received, which had been tabled for consideration. It outlined the following points of objection:

- The South Belfast Holyland area was over saturated with Houses of Multiple Occupancy and flats;
- The proposed flats to be built were extremely small and therefore not in a range of sizes and tenures as recommended in planning policy;
- The proposal would not contribute to sustainable residential development;
- It was contrary to the Council's Preferred Options Paper in relation to '*creating more balanced sustainable communities*' and '*maximising the use of existing infrastructure and services*';
- There was a major car parking problem in the area;
- To build more flats would contribute to overcrowding;
- The proposal was contradictory to the development of Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) in the city centre; and
- the need to de-intensify the numbers of HMO and flats in the area to enable the emergence of a more integrated and safe community in keeping with government and public policy.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the applicant was related to a member of Council.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the lack of car parking and the need to deal with applications consistently in this regard. The Committee also raised issues in relation to amenity space, Houses of Multiple Occupation policy and the consultation response from Transport NI.

After discussion, the recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and two against and it was declared carried.

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

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 16th January, 2018**

LA04/2017/0902/F - Change of use from retail/tanning salon to exhibition and interpretive centre, 2nd floor rear extension, side extension. 2 storey side extension with terrace, elevation changes including new entrance at 374 -376 Falls Road.

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 within the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/2145/F - Retention of HMO at 35 Woodcot Avenue

The case officer outlined the retrospective application for the retention of a change of use from a single dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

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

The Committee also noted that a workshop in relation to Planning Enforcement would be scheduled in the imminent future.

Chairperson

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 22nd January, 2018

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman Haire; and
Councillors Campbell, Dorrian,
Graham and Johnston.

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Ms. C. Toolan, Managing Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd;
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Nicholl and O'Donnell.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th November, 2017, 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 December.

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.

2018/2019 Business Plan

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Members with an overview of the key contents of the 2018/2019 Business Plan.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.
Shareholders Committee
Monday, 22nd January, 2018**

She provided the Committee with an update on how BWUH Ltd. was meeting its Strategic Goals, which included:

- delivering 50,000 annual conference delegate days, 35,000 of which would be out-of-state visitors, by 2020;
- delivering six National Large Association conferences each year from 2020;
- delivering six International/ European Association conferences each year from 2020;
- reducing the subsidy by £1.6million by 2020;
- creating employment development programmes;
- developing partnerships with other city businesses; and
- supporting local sourcing/procurement strategies where appropriate.

The Business Support Director explained that BWUH Ltd. had exceeded its sales targets for the year and was projected to generate an economic impact of more than £33million.

The Managing Director advised the Committee that she was delighted to report that the Belfast Waterfront had recently won the “Best Event Space 2017” against tough competition and that such accolades were important in the promotion and sales of the venue. She pointed out that they had recently welcomed a new Sales and Marketing Manager to the team, Ms. O. O’Reilly.

She advised the Committee that the level of competition for attracting business tourism was growing with three new conference centres opening in the U.K. later this year. She outlined that competitiveness of hotels, transportation and direct airline routes were all critical to BWUH’s success.

The Members were advised that BWUH Ltd. would focus on ensuring that there were clear identities for the conference and entertainment websites in order to minimise confusion.

The Managing Director outlined to the Members that a key consideration was the repositioning of the Belfast Waterfront as an “International Convention Centre (ICC)” within the National and International market to ensure that buyers and ambassadors related to what the building could deliver for them. She advised the Committee that she hoped that the relaunch of the new name could coincide with the 21st Birthday celebrations of the building, which would take place in May, 2018.

During discussion, the Members expressed their support for the repositioning of the Belfast Waterfront, either as the Belfast ICC or ICC Belfast, depending on focus group feedback.

The Managing Director also outlined to the Committee that one of the Non-Executive Directors had stepped down and that a replacement was therefore being

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.
Shareholders Committee
Monday, 22nd January, 2018

sought. She also explained that discussions had taken place around the recruitment of a new Non-Executive Director to the BWUH Board of Directors.

The Committee noted this course of action.

The Managing Director highlighted that the staff were critical to the success of the business and that the Reward and Recognition Programme to reward the management team for exceeding targets was extremely important. She emphasised that they continued to move from an operationally focused delivery team to a sales-drive, customer-focused culture within the organisation.

She advised the Members that, through the Facilities Management structure review, they were seeking to recruit an assistant Facilities Manager with an electrical qualification which could then lead to the creation of an apprenticeship opportunity.

In response to a Member's question, the Managing Director provided the Committee with an update on the ongoing discussions with the Trade Unions.

In relation to the Ulster Hall usage, the Managing Director provided the Committee with an update on the discussions which had taken place with the Ulster Orchestra regarding use of the venue.

The Director of Development advised the Committee that he could provide further information at the next meeting on what assistance the Council had provided to the Ulster Orchestra.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed the Business Plan for the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. for 2018/2019.

Chairperson

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